

EP.08.14  
(Revised)

**PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO  
ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR**

**Title of the proposed minor:** Minor in American Indian Studies

**Sponsoring unit(s):** American Indian Studies Program

**Brief description of the program of study:** please explain how the proposed minor meets each of the following criteria:

*The minor program of study should require some depth in the subject, but not as extensive as the major.*

*Ordinarily, the minor should be 1) a comprehensive study in a single discipline, or 2) an interdisciplinary study focusing on a single theme. If this minor is an exception, please explain and justify.*

American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign proposes to offer a minor in American Indian Studies. It will be the first academic program with this focus.

The proposed minor will provide a comprehensive overview of the histories, representations, and political struggles of American Indian and Indigenous communities. Grounded by a strong commitment to Indigenous communities, knowledges, and aesthetics, American Indian Studies draws on interdisciplinary scholarship to develop Indigenous critical theories that examine legacies of colonization and genocide, offer research methods shaped by principles of tribal sovereignties and self-determination, and provide frameworks through which students can approach other coursework in their fields of study.

**Justification:** Developing an undergraduate minor is the next step in our curricular development.

History — Beginning in the late 1980s, Native students and faculty have been calling for a dynamic cultural space, a first-rate academic program, and an assistant dean to oversee recruitment and retention efforts and to advocate for the issues related to Indian students. Though these initiatives are ongoing, after about 15 years of Native student protests and lobbying efforts of university affiliated individuals and Urbana-Champaign community members. As a result the Native American House (NAH) opened in 2002. In 2006, tenure-track faculty began to develop a curriculum for the discipline of American Indian Studies. It will be the first of this kind with this focus on the UIUC campus.

**Budgetary and Staff Implications:**

- A. There will be no additional staff or dollars needed. The American Indian Studies faculty and staff will manage the teaching and administrative loads to accommodate the minor.
- B. No internal reallocations are necessary. The American Indian Studies faculty and staff will manage the teaching loads to accommodate the minor.
- C. Courses to achieve the minor American Indian Studies will be taught regularly by the American Indian Studies core faculty. The faculty teaches the bulk of the coursework under the AIS rubric.
- D. There will be no impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

**Requirements:** list the hours and course requirements for the proposed minor.

*The minor should consist of at least 16 and no more than 21 hours of course*

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*work. At least six hours of the minor must be advanced (300 or 400) level courses. If the proposed minor fails to meet these criteria, please provide a reason.*

The minor requires 21 hours of courses selected from the following categories: Foundation Courses (9 hours) and Subject Area Courses (12 hours).

Foundation Courses are required and include:

A. Foundation Courses (9 hours)

AIS 101: Introduction to American Indian Studies (3 hours)

AIS 102: Contemporary Issues in Indian Country (3 hours)

AIS 301: Theories and Methods in American Indian Studies (3 hours) B. Subject Area Courses (Students must complete a total of 4 courses from at least 3 of the 4 categories identified below. In addition to AIS 101 and 102, only one additional course at the 100 level may be credited to the minor. At least 6 hours must be completed at the 300- or 400-level.)

1. Culture, Identity, Ethics, and Community

Courses in this category examine the philosophical and cultural traditions that form the basis for Indigeneity, with emphasis on the role that kinship and family, identity, and the sacred play in Indigenous survivance. In general, courses in this category will draw on interdisciplinary scholarship from disciplines such as anthropology and critical ethnography, religious studies, critical race theory, philosophy, and sexuality and gender studies. Among the courses that will fulfill requirements for this category are those that focus on spiritual traditions, native religious histories, Indigenous feminisms, race and ethnicity, and philosophical inquiry.

AIS 140: Native Religious Traditions

ANTH 165: North American Indians (crosslisted with AIS 165)

ANTH 288: American Indians of Illinois (crosslisted with AIS 288)

AIS 341: Native People and Christianity

AIS 495: Indigenous Critical Theory

2. Sovereignty, Governance, and Politics

Courses in this category will address Indigenous systems of governance (both before and after contact with colonial powers), the concept of sovereignty in Native communities, and the political struggles that take place both within those communities and in their relations with other groups. Typically these courses will draw on scholarship in anthropology, history, law, and sociology, as well as American Indian Studies. Among the courses that will fulfill requirements in this category are those that focus on federal Indian policy, Indian law, Indigenous politics, and the governance systems and political cultures of groups, regions, and major cultural traditions.

HIST 277: U.S. Native Americans to 1850 (crosslisted with AIS 277)

HIST 278: U.S. Native Americans since 1850 (crosslisted with AIS 278)

AIS 280: Introduction to Federal Indian Policy

AIS 430: Indigenous Governance

3. Literature, Language, and Performance



Courses in this category will examine the question of Indigenous aesthetic expressions and the question of American Indian representations. Through a variety of texts (including languages and literatures, visual arts and design, dance and music, exhibitions, and commemorations), Native peoples continue to affirm their right of self-expression -- and reinvent Western traditions -- to assert, in part, their political and human rights over mind, body, and community. These sites of cultural production re-imagine what it means to be "Indian," as they pronounce intellectual sovereignty over cultural practices and traditional territories. Among the courses that will fulfill requirements in this category are those that focus on literatures, films, museums, public space, theatre, dance, and music, and languages and the communities, groups, and regions that use them.

AIS 265:	Introduction to American Indian Literatures
AIS 275:	American Indians and Film
AIS 451:	Politics of Children's Literature
AIS 459:	Topics in American Indian Literatures
AIS 461:	Politics of Popular Culture

#### 4. Colonialism, Decolonization, and Indigeneity

Courses in this category address the trauma and burdens of colonial relations and consider everyday practices and systems of representation that inform anti-colonial principles and praxis. In general, courses in this field discerningly draw from and critically engage with interdisciplinary scholarship in critical race theory and legal studies, cultural studies, gender and women's studies, Indigenous studies, and postcolonial and colonial discourse analysis, emphasizing the ways in which a decolonized interdisciplinarity grounded in relational ways of understanding the world promises to reframe and redirect research throughout the academy. Among the courses that will fulfill requirements for this field are those concerned with activism and social movements, the commodification of identities and social relations, communications and media, economic self-sufficiency and self-determination, ethnicity, peoplehood models and fourth world theory, health and wellbeing, political geography and landscape architecture, popular culture, race relations, and science and ecology.

AIS 285:	Indigenous Thinkers
AIS 481:	History of American Indian Education
AIS 485:	Indigenous Transnationalisms

**Prerequisites for the minor:** *describe the prerequisites (if any) for the proposed minor. Prerequisite courses within the sponsoring unit count toward the total hours of coursework; prerequisite courses outside the sponsoring unit ordinarily do not.*

There are no prerequisites for the minor

**Expected enrollment in the minor:** *provide an estimate or the total number of students expected in the minor once it achieves its full enrollment.*



Twenty students, annually.

**Admission to the minor:** *describe how the department will monitor the admission process for the minor. If the department intends to limit enrollment in the minor, tell how this will be done.*

No formal admission process, no limit on enrollment in the minor at this time.

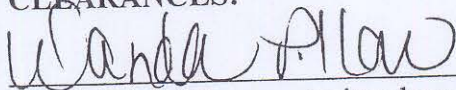
**Minor advisor:** *describe how student enrolled in the minor will be advised.*

The Director of Native American House and American Indian Studies Program will serve as the advisor to the program. The Director will be available to advise students as needed, or appoint another AIS faculty or staff members to serve in this role.


**Certification of successful completion:** *describe the system has been set up within department and college of sponsoring department/unit for certifying successful completion of the minor.*

Students who complete the requirements of the minor should apply for official certification to the Administrative Secretary in American Indian Studies. This application should be received no later than the sixth week of the semester in which the student expects to receive her or his undergraduate degree. The Director of the American Indian Studies Program will certify that a student has completed the program for the Minor.

**CLEARANCES:**



Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit



Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee:

**Proposed effective date:** upon approval

**Statement for the catalog:** provide a brief description of the minor that includes a list of the specific courses and hours required.

**AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES**

American Indian Studies

Director: LeAnne Howe

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## AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

### Minor in American Indian Studies

Statement for the catalog — American Indian Studies (AIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is an interdisciplinary program with four subject areas: (1) Culture, Identity, Ethics, and Community; (2) Sovereignty, Governance, and Politics; (3) Literature, Language, and Performance; and (4) Colonialism, Decolonization, and Indigeneity. The thinking and intellectual work of Indigenous Peoples is at the center of AIS. Thus, AIS emphasizes tribal peoples' centuries-long fight for sovereignty, including self-government, economic self-determination, and cultural self-representation. In addition to AIS 101 and 102, only one additional course at the 100 level may be credited to the minor. 6 hours of 300- or 400-level courses are required.

#### Hours Requirements

1. **Foundation Courses:** Students must complete all three foundation courses.

AIS 101- Intro to Amer Indian Studies  
AIS 102- Contemp Issues in Ind Country  
AIS 301- Theories and Methods in AIS

2. **Subject Area Courses:** Students must complete 12 hours selected from 3 of the 4 subject areas.

#### *Culture, Identity, Ethics, and Community*

AIS 140- Native Religious Traditions  
ANTH 165- North American Indians  
ANTH 288- American Indians of Illinois  
AIS 341- Native People and Christianity  
AIS 495- Indigenous Critical Theory

#### *Sovereignty, Governance, and Politics*

HIST 277- U.S. Native Americans to 1850  
HIST 278- U.S. Native Americans since 1850  
AIS 280- Intro to Federal Indian Policy  
AIS 430- Indigenous Governance

#### *Literature, Language, and Performance*

AIS 265- Intro to American Indian Lit  
AIS 275- American Indians and Film  
AIS 451- Politics of Children's Lit  
AIS 459- Topics in American Indian Lit  
AIS 461- Politics of Popular Culture

#### *Colonialism, Decolonization, and Indigeneity*

AIS 481- History of Amer Indian Educ  
AIS 485- Indigenous Transnationalisms

AIS 285- Indigenous Thinkers