

# American Indian Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

**OFFICE: Arts and Letters 331**  
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## Faculty

Emeritus: Kilpatrick  
Chair: Kamper  
Professor: Field  
Associate Professor: Kamper  
Assistant Professor:  
Adjunct: Cayleff, Colston, Cooper, Garrett,  
Ortiz, Reinholtz, Robinson-Zanartu, Spilde

## Offered by the Department

Major in American Indian studies with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in American Indian studies.

## The Major

A major in American Indian studies provides students with a liberal arts education focused on cultural diversity. The American Indian studies program takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Native American peoples. Using literature, art, history, and politics as touchstones, students come to understand the individual, as well as tribal character of Indian people. Special emphasis is given to the tribes of Southern California. Courses also draw comparisons between American Indian life and the life of other members of American society. A degree in American Indian studies prepares students for various careers both in and outside Indian country. Many of our majors find employment with tribal education programs, social and human services programs, and cultural preservation divisions. Employment opportunities are available with the various federal agencies that work with Native American communities, to include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and National Indian Gaming Commission. Majors are qualified to work in a wide range of non-Indian fields that serve Native communities, to include engineering/architectural consulting, entrepreneurship, environmental planning, financial services, and hospitality.

## Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

## Impacted Program

The American Indian studies major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the American Indian studies major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

## Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

## American Indian Studies Major

**With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**(Major Code: 22121) (SIMS Code: 110702)**

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in American Indian studies can apply to the degree.

A minor is not required with this major.

**Preparation for the Major.** American Indian Studies 110; and 140 or 141. (6 units)

**Language Requirement.** Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**Major.** A minimum of 25 upper division units to include American Indian Studies 420, 485, 498, and 18 units selected from American Indian Studies 300, 320, 331 [or Political Science 331], 370 [or Hospitality and Tourism Management 370], 430, 435, 440, 451 [or Anthropology 451], 460 [or Anthropology 460 or Linguistics 460], 470 [or Religious Studies 470], 480, 499. Courses with American Indian content from other departments may be applied to this major with written consent of the undergraduate adviser.

## American Indian Studies Minor

**(SIMS Code: 110701)**

The minor in American Indian studies consists of a minimum of 18 units, 12 of which must be upper division courses selected from American Indian studies or other appropriate departments (e.g., anthropology, linguistics, political science, Latin American studies) in consultation with the departmental adviser.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

## Courses (AMIND)

*Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.*

### LOWER DIVISION COURSES

#### AMIND 110. American Indian Heritage (3) [GE]

Major American Indian themes, beliefs, and practices and their impact on Western civilization through institutions, art, literature, philosophy, and religion.

#### AMIND 120. Written Communication (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements. (See the Graduation Requirements section of catalog.) **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of EPT or competency scores or verification of exemption; proof of credit (Cr) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92.

Understanding of rhetoric of written argument from interdisciplinary perspectives, with reference to American Indian content. Designed to develop and enhance composition and reading skills. Focus on writing skills that contribute to academic growth and development. Not open to students with credit in a higher-numbered composition course or Africana Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 [or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100] or Linguistics 100 or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 101.

**AMIND 140. U.S. History from an American Indian Perspective to 1870 (3) [AI]**

U.S. history from an indigenous perspective pre-Columbian contact to 1870. Examines Native American societies with attention to white intrusion, U.S. constitution and legislation to remove Indians, control of their land and impact upon indigenous culture and society. Satisfies the American Institutions requirement in American history and United States Constitution.

**AMIND 141. U.S. History from an American Indian Perspective Since 1870 (3) [AI]**

U.S. history from an indigenous perspective from 1870 to the present. Examines Native American societies, political systems, and reservations. Attention given to historical, contemporary, political, socioeconomic issues, the U.S. and California constitutions and their impact on Native Americans. Satisfies the American Institutions requirement in American history and California government.

**AMIND 225. Expository Writing and Research (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the SDSU writing competency requirement and Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or 101 or Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 or Linguistics 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Intermediate writing development to include rhetoric of spoken, written, and visual texts drawn from interdisciplinary sources. Not open to students with credit in Africana Studies 200, Chicana and Chicano Studies 200, Linguistics 200, or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200 [or English 200].

**AMIND 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)**

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

**UPPER DIVISION COURSES  
(Intended for Undergraduates)**

**AMIND 300. American Indian Oral Tradition (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities.

Pre-twentieth century American Indian oral and symbolic traditions including creation and origin legends, coyote stories, ceremonial songs, oratory, and memoirs.

**AMIND 320. American Indians in Contemporary Society (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Sociological understanding of the American Indian groups in contemporary society with emphasis on the relationship to dominant society and why the focus has been on Indians as social problems.

**AMIND 331. The American Indian Political Experience (3)  
(Same course as Political Science 331)**

Prerequisite: American Indian Studies 110 or Political Science 102. Social and political responses to dominant group policies by American Indian as compared to other minority groups.

**AMIND 370. Tribal Gaming: Cultural and Political Context (3)  
(Same course as Hospitality and Tourism Management 370)**

Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Social and political context of American Indian tribal gaming, political relationships between federal and tribal governments, contemporary examples of tribal gaming, sociocultural and economic forces leading to gaming as strategy for economic development, and responses by non-Indian communities to tribal gaming.

**AMIND 420. Indian Peoples of California (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Indian peoples of California. Their histories and cultures from oral traditions to contemporary issues. Focus on selected Indian tribes and communities.

**AMIND 430. American Indian Poetry and Fiction (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities.

Contemporary American Indian poetry and fiction explored in works of Welch, Ortiz, Momaday, Silko, Deloria, Allen, Erdrich, and others.

**AMIND 435. Indians Through Film and Television (3) [GE]**

Ethnographic film-making. Impact of movies and television on popular concepts of Indians. Films viewed in class.

**AMIND 440. American Indian History (3) [GE]**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities.

Historical analysis of Indian-White contact. Emphasis on the impact of historical events upon the various cultures.

**AMIND 451. American Indian Identity (3) [GE]  
(Same course as Anthropology 451)**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Multidisciplinary perspectives on American Indian identity today. Topics include perspectives from political, ethnic, cultural and legal standpoints, both within and outside of indigenous communities, as well as diachronic variation in perspectives.

**AMIND 460. American Indian Languages (3) [GE]  
(Same course as Anthropology 460 and Linguistics 460)**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Structures of American Indian languages. Language families of North America, history, and present circumstances. Interdependence of language and culture, differences in ways of speaking. Issues of language endangerment, language death, language maintenance, and language revitalization.

**AMIND 470. American Indian Spirituality and Epistemologies (3) [GE]  
(Same course as Religious Studies 470)**

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities.

Spirits, prophecies, and renewals of the Indian way compared through symbols and ceremony. Religions surveyed as they have been influenced by foreign elements and philosophies. Influences on values and tribalism as reflected through symbols and other measures.

**AMIND 480. Issues in American Indian Education (3) [GE]**

Prerequisites: American Indian Studies 110 and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Cross-cultural differences in learning styles, emphasis on Native American styles. Cross-cultural differences in child socialization related to readiness for school. Literacy-related practices in oral communities. Bilingual education in Native American communities. Local educational empowerment.

**AMIND 485. Federal Indian Law (3)**

Prerequisite: American Indian Studies 110, 140, or 141.

Legal relationship between the United States and Indian people and Indian tribes as field of Indian law was developed and has changed over the years until the present.

**AMIND 496. Topics in American Indian Studies (1-3)**

An undergraduate seminar. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

**AMIND 498. American Indian Community Service Experience (1) Cr/NC**

Service learning experience in local American Indian community, mentoring, tutoring, or interning at Indian Education Center, Indian Health Center, or similar experience. Minimum of 35 contact hours. Service experience coordinated by supervising American Indian studies faculty with target community organization.

**AMIND 499. Special Study (1-4)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Individual study. Maximum credit six units.