Our Department

The American Indian Studies Department was established in 1977. It offers a major and minor in American Indian Studies leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts through the College of Arts and Sciences.

We welcome all students, Native and non-Native, to our courses, and we serve a diverse student population from all over the world, including Native students from across North America.

This diversity in student population, the interdisciplinary backgrounds and research interests of the faculty, and the diverse needs we serve on- and off-campus mean that we teach comparative courses, including content on Canada, Latin America, and global indigeneity as it relates to American Indian issues.

For the greater University community, the courses in American Indian Studies, together with the research conducted or sponsored by the Department, provide an expanded approach to the study of American history, diversity, and cultures. For our students, our courses offer an opportunity to learn how to critically engage complex issues.
A Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in American Indian Studies

Allows students and graduates:
- to think critically
- to write carefully
- to apply knowledge in diverse complex situations

Teaches:
- the importance of Native voices and perspectives
- the realities of Native cultures, experiences, and histories
- the variety of Native experiences and contemporary situations
- the necessity of being attentive to others

Prepares graduates:
- for lifelong careers of learning and thinking
- for a diverse world
- for living and working with, in, and around Native communities
- for a better understanding of American Indian issues
- for graduate or professional school in related disciplines, especially in history, literature, anthropology, sociology, law, and others

Enhances:
- other degree programs, if students want to learn about the connection to Native issues
- the ability to understand the realities of life in the United States

Courses offered:

- IS 122 American Indians and Tradition
- IS 123 American Indians and Culture
- IS 151 White Images of Native Americans
- IS 171 Hollywood Indians
- IS 181 Native Americans before 1600
- IS 201 History of the Sioux
- IS 202 Cultures of the Sioux
- IS 203 History of the Anishinabe
- IS 204 Cultures of the Anishinabe
- IS 207 History of the Three Affiliated Tribes
- IS 208 Cultures of the Three Affiliated Tribes
- IS 221 North American Indians before 1815
- IS 222 North American Indians since 1815
- IS 230 Approaches to Native Cultures
- IS 240 Research and Writing
- IS 311 Health and American Indian Cultures *
- IS 320 Native Cultural Landscapes
- IS 344 Education and American Indians
- IS 346 American Indian Women
- IS 348 Beyond the Reservation
- IS 352 Native Philosophies and Religion
- IS 354 Dynamics of Conquest and Resistance
- IS 356 Law, Culture, and Communities
- IS 360 Oral Traditions
- IS 385 Sustainable Communities
- IS 390 Family, Kinship, Gender
- IS 395 Ethnohistory of North America
- IS 410 Indigenous Identities
- IS 379 Special Topics (varies)
- IS 430 Internship
- IS 492 Directed Readings
- IS 494 Independent Studies

* Approved to carry graduate student credit

For information on requirements for the major or minor, and for semester course offerings, go to http://arts-sciences.und.edu/american-indian-studies/requirements.cfm

The Faculty

Birgit Hans
Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor
Ph.D. in English, University of Arizona

Literature; Religion; Oral History; Native Women; Powwows; Education
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Alan Shackelford
Assistant Professor
Ph.D. in History, Indiana University

History; Frontier; Ethnohistory; Precolumbian History; Colonial History and Relations
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The Students

Indian Studies Association (ISA)

The purpose of this organization is to promote a better understanding of cultures between students, faculty, staff, and the greater Grand Forks region. To encourage communication among student and alumni members, faculty, staff, and administration. To establish a sense of community among all UND Indian Studies majors and minors. To help with the recruiting and retention of students into the Indian Studies department. To foster a closer relationship between current Indian Studies students and Indian Studies alumni. Interact with Indian programs at UND and nationally. Increase cultural awareness by providing workshops and other events throughout the academic school year. Provide input to American Indian Studies Faculty and to recognize outstanding contributions to the American Indian Community.