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Native American Studies Program



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The Native American Studies Minor

A minor in NAS involves a minimum of 18 credits of course work focusing on Native Americans with three required NAS-designated courses:

- NAS 101: Introduction to Native American Studies
- NAS 102: Introduction to Wabanaki Culture, History, and Contemporary Issues
- A class in Native American Studies at the 400 level

The remaining credits come from:

- ANT 372 North American Prehistory
- HTY 220-North American Indian History
- HTY 481-American Indians of the Northeast: A History
- NAS 201-Topics in Native American Studies
- NAS 230-Maine Indian History in the Twentieth Century
- NAS 270/WGS 270-Native American Women
- NAS 295/ANT 295-American Indians & Climate Change
- NAS 298-Directed Study in Native American Studies
- NAS 401-Advanced Topics in Native American Studies
- NAS 451/ANT 451-Nat. American Cultures & Identities
- NAS 498-Directed Study in Native American Studies

In addition, students may submit courses with considerable Native American content for consideration for inclusion in the Native American Studies minor. The content of such courses may make them suitable as approved electives.

Native American Studies is an interdisciplinary minor committed to the study of the cultures, values, history and contemporary life of the American Indian nations and people of North America with a focus on the Wabanaki Nations of Maine and the Maritimes. The importance and significance of the indigenous people are critical in understanding the settler nation-states in which we live. The Native American Studies minor creates an understanding of the unique legacy of American Indians and their continuing relationship to the development of the United States and Canada. Specific emphasis is placed on the Wabanaki peoples of Maine and Canada, with a secondary focus on the Native peoples of North America.

Native American Studies is founded on the principles of self-determination and sovereignty. It is committed to academic scholarship and research excellence. We educate and inform all students about the Native experience and the rich cultural heritage of the sovereign Native peoples of the North American continent. Our goal is to teach students, through Native perspectives, to better understand Native people, their traditions and their cultures.

In an increasingly diverse society, an understanding of distinct populations is a critical asset. A minor in Native American Studies exposes students to, and provides them with, an understanding of the historical, economic, social and political forces that have shaped Native experiences in the Americas. It prepares students to live in a multicultural society by giving them the skills to confront racism, discrimination and prejudice. It further empowers students to appreciate and celebrate diversity by understanding the worldviews of a distinct people. The program is designed to augment students' major programs of study and prepares students for diverse careers in areas such as: public service, nursing, law enforcement, business, education, medicine, counseling, social work, as well as a myriad of other occupations.

The Native American Studies minor involves a minimum of 18 credits of course work focusing on Native Americans with three required NAS-designated courses.

In addition, students may submit courses with considerable Native American content for consideration for inclusion in the Native American Studies minor. The content for such courses may make them suitable as approved electives.

For more information or advising assistance, please see Darren Ranco darren.ranco@maine.edu, Chair of Native American Programs in Corbett Hall or call (207) 581-4450.