Native American Studies

Nature of Program

The minor in Native American Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program offered within the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. The curriculum is designed to develop greater respect for and understanding of diverse Native cultures by providing historical and contemporary perspectives.

Students who complete the NAS minor enhance their ability to think in nontraditional ways and interact more effectively with diverse populations. NAS students learn about some of the many cultures, languages, histories, and traditions of indigenous Americans, as well as the challenges and successes of Native nations in the 21st century. Experiential and hands-on learning, travel and immersion-style courses, as well as lectures and dialogue with highly-regarded Native American leaders, authors, scholars, activists, and artists, are at the heart of the NAS curriculum.

Admission Requirements

Any student admitted to an undergraduate degree program at WVU may complete a minor in Native American Studies. An "area of emphasis" in NAS is available to Regents Bachelor of Arts majors. Students who choose the NAS minor come from a variety of academic majors as far-ranging as business, engineering, art, English, history, anthropology, and health sciences, to name a few. Our graduates find practical ways to apply their NAS education, working in fields such as cultural resource management, education, law, health care, and government.

Faculty

Coordinator
• Bonnie M. Brown - M.A.

Teaching Instructor
• Bonnie M. Brown - M.A.
  Interests: Contemporary Native American Issues; Native Women in Leadership; Tribal Sovereignty

Lecturers
• Robert Pirner
  Interests: Lakota Studies; Indian Country Economic Development; Warrior Culture Then and Now; Native Music and Dance
• Angela Grabuloff - Ed.D.
  Interests: Native Youth Education; Indigenous Communities; Yup’ik Culture and History, Subsistence Living
• Travis L. Henline - M.A.
  Interests: Eastern Woodland Indians; Cherokee History and Culture; American Indian Interpretation/Public History
• John Joseph "Joe" Candillo (Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona) - Ph.D.
  Interests: American Indian Material Culture and Practices; Wilderness Immersion and Traditional Native American Ecology
• Ellesa Clay High (Mekoce Shawnee) - Ph.D.
  WVU Assoc. Professor of English. Interests: Literature of Native America; Native American Film; Culture and Tradition
• Karen Manzo - Ph.D. ABD (West Virginia University)
  Interests: American Indian Health; Native Youth Suicide Prevention; Cultural Resilience; Community-Based Participatory Research
• Carol Markstrom - Ph.D.
  WVU Professor of Child Development and Family Studies, Dept. of Technology, Learning and Culture, College of Education and Human Services.
  Interests: Native American Children and Families; Apache Culture and History; American Indian Education
• SilverMoon - Ph.D. (Duke University)
  Interests: Indigenous Intellectuals; Native American Images-"New World" Film; Latin American History; Native American Studies; Ethnohistory; Mesoamerican Studies; Pre-Conquest America; Colonial Latin America; Modern Latin America; Early Modern Transatlantic Studies; World History and Globalization
• Thomas Keopuhiwa - Ed.D.
  Interests: Native Hawaiian Culture and History; Immersion Learning in Hawaii
• Leilani Browning - Ed.D.
  Interests: Native Hawaiian Culture and History
• Darla Spencer - M.A.
  (Registered Professional Archaeologist) Interests: Moundbuilder Cultures; Native American Cultural Preservation
Native American Studies Minor
Minor Code -U038

Requirements
Students must complete a total of eighteen credits (nine lower-division credits, nine upper-division credits), earning a grade of C or better in all coursework to earn the NAS Minor.

• The following three lower-division, three credit courses, which ALL help satisfy WVU GEC (General Education Curriculum) requirements, must be completed for the NAS minor: (GEC 4 or 9); ENGL 156 (GEC 5 or 9); and HIST 264 (GEC 3 or 7).

• Students may choose nine upper-division credits from the following list in order to fulfill the requirements for the NAS Minor:
  A grade of C or higher must be earned in all minor courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAS 491</td>
<td>Professional Field Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAS course Native American Child/Family Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS 495</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 356</td>
<td>Topics in Native American Lit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 355</td>
<td>Governments of Latin America</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>And other courses the NAS coordinator may approve in writing via memo to the student’s major advisor.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NAS 293</td>
<td>Special Topics course (subject matter changes)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAS 493 Cherokee History and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Hours 18

Reminder Note: Students may not count more than three hours of NAS 495 toward the minor.

Of the upper-division courses listed, ENGL 356, NAS 493, and NAS 495 are wholly focused on Native Americans; the other courses have a partial focus on Native Americans. NAS special topics courses include titles such as “Cherokee History and Culture” and “Native American Child & Family Studies,” but also: “Eastern Woodland Indians”; “Lakota Studies”; “Contemporary Native American Issues”; “Research with Indigenous Peoples”; American Indian Health; Native American Women in Leadership; Native American Filmmakers; Culture, Tradition, and the Sacred; Native Hawaiian Culture and History; Introduction to Moundbuilder Cultures; Yup’ik Culture and History; Native American Material Culture and Practices; Apache Culture and History; Native Voices: Sites and Stories; PowWow Highway-Music and Dance; 2012: Myths of the Maya; Indigenous Intellectuals, and others not listed here.

Students should consult with the NAS coordinator to learn about other courses of interest and opportunities for additional academic exploration of Native American topics, such as HIST 442, ENGL 387, ARHS 307, etc.