Three Big Things:

- Interdisciplinary approach with emphasis on Native American and Indigenous theories and issues
- Offers an appropriate support apparatus for Indian students who wish to enter any of the major disciplines, and
- Fulfills course requirements towards major in Race and Culture Studies

What is American Indian Studies?

Established in 1965, the American Indian Studies Program (AISP) services the needs of Native American students interested in obtaining an undergraduate or graduate degree from Eastern Washington University.

A major goal of this program is to expand the knowledge students have concerning contributions of research and knowledge by American Indians to American society. The EWU American Indian Studies Program believes that the American Indian on this continent - past and present - should be of vital concern to students and faculties within the higher education system of America, and that the contributions of Indian societies to scholarly bodies of knowledge is infinitely valuable.

The American Indian Studies faculty at Eastern Washington University have a deep commitment to social justice and inter-cultural competency; hence, this ideal is central to their teaching philosophies and practices.

Career Opportunities

Through the support of the AISP, EWU has educated many of today's educators, healthcare providers, social workers, business executives, tribal leaders, planners, writers, artists, etc., who have chosen to return to their Indian communities to practice their professions.

With additional education, other opportunities for students who have a minor in American Indian Studies include professor/instructor, lawyers, employment counselor, lawyer, human services worker, and human resource specialist.

Degree requirements

A minor in American Indian Studies requires twenty credits of course work. Students will take two required courses (ten credits), that will provide them with a foundation of the main theories of the general concepts regarding the academic discipline of American Indian Studies and current issues related to Indigenous communities. Students will be able to utilize these introductory concepts to direct their future research on both the domestic and global levels. Required foundation courses, five credits each, include:

- IDST 101 Introduction to Indian Studies and
- IDST 321 Contemporary Indian Issues.

In addition, students will choose at least two other courses for a total of ten credits, from the following:

- IDST 201, 202, 203 Salish Language and Culture I, II, III (5 credits each)
- IDST 316 American Indian History, I (5)
- IDST 317 American Indian History II (5)
- IDST 320 Indian Wars Past and Present (5)
- IDST 325 Native American Writing (5)
- IDST 338 American Indian Cinema (5)
- IDST 380 Survey of Native American Literature (5)
- IDST 420 Readings in Decolonization (5)
- IDST 421 Federal Indian Law and Policy I (5)
- IDST 422 Federal Indian Law and Policy II (5)
- IDST 477 Contemporary Indigenous Women (5)
- IDST 480 Native American Oral Traditions (5)
- IDST 485 Indigenous Education (5)
Academic

Studying the culture and historical record of Native American and Indigenous people is important to an understanding of contemporary relationships between these first nations and those who arrived later on the North American continent. For more than 40 years, Eastern’s American Indian Studies program has explored American Indians through studies in history, literature, federal policies, contemporary issues and culture of indigenous peoples. Courses in American Indian Studies are designed to:

- Prepare students for professional employment within Native American communities.
- Offer an appropriate support apparatus for Indigenous students who wish to enter any of the major disciplines and
- Develop important course work to meet the intellectual aspirations of all students and mainstream American society.

Special Features

Services offered by the AISP focus on three areas: recruitment, retention and academic studies. Each year as many as 40 tribes are represented in the program. Students attending EWU come primarily from the seven major tribes of the region: Spokane, Colville, Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene confederations. Native Americans from Alaska, Montana, British Columbia and Alberta also comprise the American Indian student community.

Contact Information

For more information about the American Indian Studies minor, please contact: American Indian Studies Program:

www.ewu.edu/ais

The University

Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. Its campus is located in Cheney, within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State. With more than 100 fields of study, 9 master’s degrees, 11 graduate certificates, 35 graduate programs, 1 educational specialist degree and 1 applied doctorate.

The mission of Eastern Washington University is to expand opportunities for personal transformation through excellence in learning. EWU envisions a future of professionally, socially and culturally engaged leaders, citizens and communities. EWU is a driving force for the culture, economy, workforce and vitality of Washington State. Our graduates think critically and make meaningful contributions to both their career fields and their communities.

Note

Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for Race and Culture Studies, please check the catalogue online at:

http://www.ewu.edu/Academics/catalog