

Course Descriptions

American Indian Studies

AIS 1113 Introduction to Sovereignty and Tribal Governments

Students in this course will be introduced to the concept of tribal sovereignty and explore the many complications associated with the term. In order to gain a full understanding of the idea, students will examine aspects of history, law, self-governance, and taxation. Students will also explore the various structures and dynamics of tribal governments across North America. To this end, students will consider the many forms of tribal governments—both contemporary and historical—and the rights and responsibilities connected to managing a national, or tribal, government.

AIS 1213 Principles of Leadership in Indian Country

In this course, students will become familiar with the skills necessary to be an effective and dynamic leader in Indian Country. Topics covered include: public speaking, needs assessment, conflict management, as well as principles of diplomacy and etiquette. One primary focus will include tribal planning and implementation. This class is geared toward those students who eventually want to, or currently hold, leadership positions within a tribal government. Because of this, the course tends toward practical matters that arise in tribal government settings on a daily basis. Students will also learn how to write reports, memos, and business letters.

AIS 1313 Principles of Economic Development in Indian Country

This course allows students to explore both the practical and theoretical components of economic development as a major initiative in Indian Country. Successful economic development projects have allowed numerous Indian nations to achieve various levels of self-determination, which has thereby reduced their reliance on federal funding. Students will not only examine the dynamics of specific successful case studies of economic development in Indian Country, they will also develop their own projects. Such issues as assessing needs, developing action plans, and implementing projects will be considered. In addition, students will also explore attributes of Federal law that guide and regulate economies within Indian Country.

AIS 1413 Office Management in Indian Country

Students in this course will become familiar with the day-to-day fundamentals of operating and managing an office in a professional setting. Major areas of focus will include personal development and employability skills, managing records, processing mail, keeping financial records, learning professional communication skills, processing business correspondence, operating office equipment, completing office support activities, and learning interviewing techniques. Students will be expected to build their communications skills—both verbally and written—and will be able to begin managing an office.

AIS 1443 Indian Country Today (Contemporary Issues)

This course will allow students to explore the more complicated concerns now inherent in Indian Country, including legal issues, repatriation, and cultural preservation. The main thrust of the class is to begin introducing students to finding creative ways to resolve major matters—whether pan-Indian or local. To this end, students will become familiar with the relationship Indian nations have with the federal government. Emphasis will be placed on understanding contemporary Indian problems in the context of specific cultural, historical and philosophical backgrounds.

AIS 2113 Partnership Building for Indian Country

Given the seemingly perpetual struggle of Indian nations to secure the federal funding necessary to operate programs and implement initiatives, Indian leaders will have to locate alternative sources of funding and capacity building. Students in this course will become familiar with the processes involved in establishing partnerships, negotiating contracts, authoring memorandums of understanding, and carrying out action plans. In addition, students will also learn how to set up 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, which will increase the likelihood of corporations and foundations partnering with an Indian nation. This course will require students to conduct intense research projects and possess the ability to communicate effectively.

AIS 2213 Fundraising & Grant Writing

In this course students will learn about the fundamentals of fundraising and grant writing, as both are vital to tribal growth and project implementation. Students will become familiar with the basic steps (and

terms) as well as the research involved in authoring a grant proposal—whether to federal or state agencies, or to private foundations. In order to learn how to write successful grant proposals, students will examine both successful and unsuccessful examples. Students will be responsible for authoring a proposal, and they will work closely with a tribal entity to submit a fully-realized grant. Students will also consider various strategies for fundraising and carrying out successful initiatives.

AIS 2313 Indian Gaming—Regulations & Operations

Students in this course will examine the rise of the gaming industry in Indian Country and explore its far-reaching impact. To that end, students will become familiar with the regulations established by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC); they will also learn about the rules that govern operating a casino. In addition, they will study a number of gaming ordinances and consider the benefits of establishing third-party gaming management offices. Completing such a course will allow students to understand how to manage either a gaming management office or a gaming facility. A discussion of business ethics will be ongoing during the course.

AIS 2413 Project Management & Coordination

Students will have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of managing and coordinating projects, which will include their becoming familiar with creating budgets, writing invoices, organizing meetings, writing meeting agendas, writing memos, letter writing, and principles of effective communication. To that end, students will learn about the various phases and disciplines involved with construction projects and conflict resolution.

AIS 2750 Practicum in Indian Country

Second-year students in this course will have the opportunity to “learn in the field” as they receive supervised experience in an employment setting. Such internships are valuable in that they allow students to observe day-to-day operations of an Indian-run office—whether it be a government, business, or social services office. By observing and assessing an actual setting, the student will better understand both how an office operates and how its operations might be improved. This course will also allow students to begin establishing connections and relationships with Indian leaders. Students must receive the Director’s permission to enroll in the course, and the Director will work in conjunction with the student to secure a practicum in a specific setting if a student so wishes.