

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4317S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 40 (AIIS): Add a Minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies located in Interdisciplinary Studies

Effective Date: Fall 2017

1. Add: On page 203, before the entry for the Asian Studies minor:

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES (AIIS)

Minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies

The American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) minor is an interdisciplinary course of study that provides students with an understanding and appreciation of the broad historical, political, social, and economic issues and realities pertaining to indigenous societies and communities, both locally and globally, since the pre-colonial era through colonialism to modern times. The minor incorporates an interdisciplinary framework of materials, methodologies and cross-cultural comparisons from the fields of social sciences and humanities. The minor will examine historical and contemporary issues of power relations, representation, capitalism, coloniality, identity and ecology, along with social and cultural expressions rooted in the experiences and voices of indigenous peoples. A particular emphasis will be language revitalization, specifically in the Cherokee Language.

Requirements for the Minor

At least 18 hours including AIIS 200 and additional electives chosen from AIIS courses and the electives listed below. Courses must be taken from at least two different academic disciplines in addition to AIIS. Appropriate courses may be substituted with approval from the program director. Note: students are responsible for completing required prerequisites to the elective courses.

University-wide minimum requirements for a minor: 1) one-half of the hours required for a minor must be completed in residence at UNC Asheville, to include at least 6 hours at the 300-400 level; 2) students must have a cumulative grade-point-average of at least 2.0 on minor courses taken at UNC Asheville.

ANTH	323	Storied Anthropology (4)
ANTH	336	Ethnographic Methods (4)
ANTH	339	Intersections of Gender in the Americas (4)
ASTR	301	Indigenous Perspectives on the Sky (4)
HWP	250	Health Parity: Domestic and Global Contexts (3)
HIST	303	Colonial North America (4)
HIST	332	Perspectives in Pre-Columbian American History (4)
HIST	382	American Indian History, Precontact to 1840 (4)
LIT	328	Ethnic Literatures (Indigenous Studies topics) (4)
POLS	337	ReStorying Community (4)
SOC	221	Sociology of Race (4)
WLNG	110	Cherokee I (4)
WLNG	120	Cherokee II (4)

Courses in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS)

200 Introduction to American Indian and Indigenous Studies (4)

Establishes an interdisciplinary introduction to the field of American Indian and Indigenous Studies. The course begins by considering the critical question of what it means to be "American Indian" or "Indigenous," comparing externally produced stereotypes with a wide variety of indigenous discourses and narratives. The social, political, and legal circumstances of American Indians and Indigenous peoples will be considered through the examination of legislation, court cases, and federal, state and local policies impacting tribal governments and indigenous communities. Fall and Spring.

205 Issues, Ideas and Identity in Contemporary Native America (4)

Explores special considerations and issues in American Indian studies. Students will be introduced to a broad array of topics such as cultural appropriation, museums and repatriation, blood quantum, tribal governance and sovereignty, tribal law, Indian gaming, health and wellness issues, environmentalism, historic and contemporary issues in American Indian education. See program director.

210 American Indian Film Studies (4)

Explores the construction of American Indian identity in Hollywood films from the silent film era through the 20th century. The "Reel" Indians produced by Hollywood say very little about Real Native peoples who not only refuse to vanish but who consistently reject their prescribed roles in the U.S. national imaginary, insisting instead on rights to rhetorical and representational sovereignty. Special attention will be paid to American Indian writers, directors and producers in the latter part of the 20th and into the 21st century who contest representational constructions of "the white man's Indian" on the way to imagining more complex possibilities for "Real Indians" in the twenty-first century. Every year.

390 Advanced Topics in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (4)

Advanced readings in American Indian and Indigenous Studies focusing on topics of pertinent interests. Interdisciplinary attention is given to current writings in the field. Prerequisite: completion of 12 hours in American Indian and Indigenous Studies. See program director.

499 Undergraduate Research in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (1-4)

Independent research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Can be repeated for a total of 8 hours credit. An IP grade may be awarded at discretion of instructor. See program director.

171-6, 271-6, 371-6, 471-6 Special Topics in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (1-6)

Courses not otherwise included in the catalog listing but for which there may be special needs. May be repeated for credit as often as permitted and as subject matter changes.

178, 378 Liberal Arts Colloquia (LA 178, 378) (3-4)

Courses offered to fulfill Liberal Arts Core requirements. See Liberal Arts section of catalog for course descriptions. May not be used to fulfill major or minor requirements.

IMPACT STATEMENT: Academic Affairs has committed resources for the proposed minor, so there will be minimal impact on the resources and staffing of affected departments. There will be four new courses added, but much of the program will be drawn from currently offered courses from departments across campus. Courses are already being offered by UNCA faculty that incorporate American Indian and Indigenous studies content. As this minor is small, the program will not need resources for a director or separate operating budget. Dr. Trey Adcock, who serves as Director of American Indian Outreach, provides advisement both to American Indian students and to other students who are interested in related curricular opportunities. As new faculty are hired, consideration will be given to whether they can teach a course in their field that focuses on American Indian and Indian studies.

RATIONALE: The interdisciplinary minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) is being proposed for a number of reasons. Primary is development of curriculum to serve UNC Asheville's growing American Indian population on campus. This also speaks to the university's mission to foster a diverse and inclusive campus community. As it currently stands, there is minimal curriculum for these students to learn and better understand their own histories, culture and language. This could also lead to improved retention rates for American Indian students at UNCA. Second, the development of this minor is fulfilling UNC Asheville's commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently signed with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Finally, the development and inclusion of Cherokee Language courses in the minor will place UNC Asheville in the unique place of collaborating with the EBCI to help preserve and revitalize the Cherokee language. There are currently only about 219 native speakers of Cherokee in the United States and the Cherokee language is facing extinction. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, located approximately 1 hour from campus, is actively engaged and invested in the preservation of the Cherokee language and culture. Thus, this minor also serves as a collaboration between members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian and UNC Asheville to help preserve, protect and revitalize the language.