

First Nations Studies

(Bachelor of Arts)

First Nations Studies reflects the holistic worldview of the indigenous people of Turtle Island (North America). First Nations Studies is committed to the study of First Nations culture, philosophy, history, language, and the social, economic, and political status of indigenous people and their communities. The program is designed to preserve and promote the identity and sovereign status of indigenous people through the study and practice of decolonization. The program places particular emphasis on the nations in our region, the Western Great Lakes.

First Nations Studies incorporates the teaching and learning approaches of tribal people, offering students a new way to learn within the academy. The program places emphasis on the oral tradition of First Nations people as preserved and shared by tribal Elders. Students take part in oral traditional learning experiences within the university classroom and, also, in tribal communities learning from tribal people. First Nations Studies teaching and learning is centered on the four areas of learning in the tribal world – history, culture, sovereignty, laws and policies, and indigenous philosophy.

The program is of interest to both American Indian and non-Indian students who wish to learn more about the traditional cultures and knowledge of indigenous people as well as the changes experienced by First Nations as a result of Euro-American contact.

The program offers a major and a minor. The minor strengthens numerous degrees including those in Business, History, Education, Social Work, Psychology, and the natural and social sciences. The degrees prepare students to live and work in an increasingly diverse community and also equip students with skills to work collaboratively and effectively with tribal governments and businesses.

Major

Code	Title	Credits
Supporting Courses		12
Required Core Courses		
FNS 211	Mentoring First Nations Youth ¹	
FNS 224	First Nations and The Sacred	
FNS 225	Introduction to First Nations Studies	
Choose one		
FNS 210	American Indians In Film	
FNS 295	Special Topics in First Nations Studies	
Upper-Level Courses		27
FNS 391	First Nations Studies Capstone Seminar	
First Nations Policy:		
FNS 392	First Nations Justice and Tribal Governments	
or FNS 393	First Nations and Education Policy	
Oral Emphasis (complete one of the following 12 credit options):		
Option 1 Oneida Language Project		
FNS 301	Oneida Language I	
FNS 302	Oneida Language II	
FNS 303	Oneida Language III	
FNS 304	Oneida Language IV	
Option 2		
FNS 301	Oneida Language I	
FNS 399	First Nations Studies Oral Tradition Concentration (must complete 9 credits)	
Elective Courses (choose 9 credits): ²		
ART 381	Art of the First Nations	
FNS 302	Oneida Language II	
FNS 303	Oneida Language III	
FNS 304	Oneida Language IV	
FNS 336	American Ethnic Literature	
FNS 360	Women and Gender in First Nations Communities	
FNS 372	Indigenous Nations Oral and Storytelling Traditions	
FNS 374	Wisconsin First Nations Ethnohistory	
FNS 385	First Nations Intellectual Traditions	

FNS 392	First Nations Justice and Tribal Governments	
FNS 393	First Nations and Education Policy	
FNS 395	Special Topics in First Nations Studies	
FNS 399	First Nations Studies Oral Tradition Concentration	
FNS 497	Internship	
FNS 498	Independent Study	
FNS 299/499	Travel Course	
HUM STUD 350	Interdisciplinary Study of Great Works (Indigenous Intellectuals topic only)	
Total Credits		39

¹ OR equivalent 3 credit learning experience

² Courses do not double count with Oral Emphasis options above.

Minor

Code	Title	Credits
Supporting Courses		9
FNS 211	Mentoring First Nations Youth ¹	
FNS 225	Introduction to First Nations Studies	
Choose one course:		
FNS 210	American Indians In Film	
FNS 224	First Nations and The Sacred	
FNS 295	Special Topics in First Nations Studies	
Upper Level Courses		15
FNS 391	First Nations Studies Capstone Seminar	
Policy Requirement (choose one course):		
FNS 392	First Nations Justice and Tribal Governments	
or FNS 393	First Nations and Education Policy	
Elective Courses (choose 9 credits): ²		
FNS 301	Oneida Language I	
FNS 302	Oneida Language II	
FNS 303	Oneida Language III	
FNS 304	Oneida Language IV	
FNS 305	Oneida Language V	
FNS 306	Oneida Language VI	
FNS 360	Women and Gender in First Nations Communities	
FNS 372	Indigenous Nations Oral and Storytelling Traditions	
FNS 374	Wisconsin First Nations Ethnohistory	
FNS 385	First Nations Intellectual Traditions	
FNS 395	Special Topics in First Nations Studies	
FNS 393	First Nations and Education Policy	
FNS 399	First Nations Studies Oral Tradition Concentration	
FNS 495	Teaching Assistantship	
FNS 497	Internship	
FNS 498	Independent Study ³	
Total Credits		24

¹ OR equivalent 3 credit learning experience

² Courses do not double count with Policy Requirement courses above.

³ Requires approval of First Nations Studies adviser.

Curriculum Guide

The following is a curriculum guide for a four-year First Nations Studies degree program and is subject to change without notice. Students should consult a First Nations Studies program advisor to ensure that they have the most accurate and up-to-date information available about a particular four-year degree option.

An example: Four year plan for **First Nations Studies**

120 credits necessary to graduate.

Plan is a representation and categories of classes can be switched. Check with your advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
FNS 211	Mentoring First Nations Youth (or in Freshman year Spring)	3
FNS 225	Introduction to First Nations Studies	3
First Year Seminar		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Spring		
FNS 211	Mentoring First Nations Youth	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Sophomore		
Fall		
FNS 224	First Nations and The Sacred	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Spring		
FNS 301	Oneida Language I	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Junior		
Fall		
FNS 393	First Nations and Education Policy	3
FNS Upper Level Elective		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
Elective		3
		Credits
		15
Spring		
FNS 392	First Nations Justice and Tribal Governments (or FNS Upper Level Elective)	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
Elective		3

Elective		3
Credits		15
Senior		
Fall		
FNS 391	First Nations Studies Capstone Seminar	3
FNS Upper Level Elective		3
FNS Upper Level Elective		3
FNS Upper Level Elective		3
Elective		3
Credits		15
Spring		
FNS 399	First Nations Studies Oral Tradition Concentration	12
Elective		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

Faculty

John P Leary; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Madison*

Lisa M Poupart; Associate Professor; Ph.D., Arizona State University, chair*

Lois Stevens; Assistant Professor; Ph.D., University of Kansas*