

## MINOR IN NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

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The minor in Native American Studies is designed to familiarize students with the histories, literatures, cultures, and futures of the indigenous citizens of North America. It will be of interest to students who wish to explore the unique political and social relationship that the First Nations and their members hold with the United States. It provides students with key concepts, information, and a foundation of knowledge rooted in several academic disciplines. Students are required to take an interdisciplinary core of four courses from three different departments and Interdisciplinary Studies. Two electives from approved offerings by faculty in the field of Native American Studies may be selected as alternatives to the list of electives below.

--18 credit hours required.

--Required courses: IDS 121.29; ANT 283; ENG 266; HIS 104.06 or HIS 310

--6 hours of additional courses from:

ANT 272 North American Indians

HIS 104.06 History of...Indigenous Peoples

HIS 310 Native American History

IDS 222/223 National Student Exchange (with tribal college; may apply 3 units toward minor)

IDS 225 National Collegiate Honors Exchange (at tribal college; may apply 3 units toward minor)

IDS 287 Independent Study (may apply up to 6 units toward minor)

IDS 298/398.02 Professional Practice Internship (may be on- or off-campus; may apply 3 units toward minor)

NOTE: This program must be planned in consultation with the Native American Studies faculty director. With his/her approval, courses other than those listed above may be counted toward the minor.

A list of affiliated faculty and more information is available through the Native American Studies link on the Ethnic Studies website. Departments participating in the minor: English, History, Sociology/Anthropology, Theatre.

## **Part A: Program Description and Explanations**

**Institution:** Illinois State University

**Responsible department/school or administrative unit:** Interdisciplinary  
Studies/College of Arts and Sciences

**Proposed program title:** Minor in Native American Studies

**CIPS classification:** 05.0202

**Date of implementation:** Spring 2008

### **Description of proposed program:**

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### **Rationale for proposal:**

Unlike many first-, second-, and third-tier institutions of higher education, Illinois State University currently has no minor, major, or program in Native American Studies. However, the university now offers several continuing courses in the area, housed both in departments and in the Interdisciplinary Studies area. In addition, the Global Studies component of the General Education Program indicates the importance to global studies of a focus on the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the world. The university employs two tenured faculty and one pre-tenure faculty whose research area is primarily or largely in Native American studies, one tenured faculty in archaeology with a partial focus on North America, one pre-tenure faculty in archaeology with a focus on North America, and several faculty with supporting research and teaching interests in the area. It also has a population of approximately 50-60 undergraduate and graduate students who identify themselves as Native American, but for whom there is no formal academic program that supports teaching and learning in their histories and discourses. The minor is therefore being proposed as a way to support the interdisciplinary principles of the university and Educating Illinois at a time when it is likely to remain viable due to the stability of the faculty and the curriculum while also becoming increasingly important to the curricular and extra-curricular commitment of the university to diversity in its changing student body.

### **Expected impact of proposal on existing campus programs**

The minor is expected to have no negative financial or other impact on existing campus programs. All of the courses that constitute the minor are already being offered on a regular basis through individual departments or IDS. The faculty referred to above are generally those who staff these courses, so changes to their current schedules are unlikely to be necessary in the next 5-10 years. In addition, the minor will likely enroll at the outset fewer than 30 students, so the need for additional advisement or other services will be minimal. The role of advisor will be rotated among the principle faculty and that person will likely experience only a small impact to their out-of-class work with students during this same time frame. No non-tenure-track staffing will be needed beyond what individual departments have already planned for their own needs prior to the creation of the minor.

The minor is expected to have an extremely positive intellectual impact on existing campus programs. Currently, students tend to find a single Native American studies course, often haphazardly. They have no current guides towards identifying how to pursue their interest in the topic. Thus, the minor will focus these students' efforts. It will also help all the Colleges as well as student services offices on campus by making the issues related to Native American college and K-12 students more prominent and by articulating in scholarly and intellectual discourses their importance for the greater pursuit of knowledge, the Democracy Project, the study of the institution in its relationship to students and the local & national communities, and the like.

### **Expected curricular changes including new courses**

At present, we do not anticipate the creation of new courses nor changes to the present curriculum. Sometime in the future, the faculty may create a course along the lines of "An Introduction to Native American Studies." However, the current IDS 121.29 Texts and Contexts course may serve as such an introduction and in many ways already is serving in that capacity informally. One of the faculty members in this minor is currently proposing a new course at the 400-level for her department.

### **Milner contacted to determine sufficient resources**

Because all the courses proposed for the minor are already being taught, we do not anticipate any significant special requests for additional resources from Milner. The 400-level course proposal will fill in gaps at that level of the curriculum, if they exist. Milner already supports many of the journals significant in the field, in either print and/or electronic format

### **Anticipated staffing arrangements**

None.

### **Anticipated funding needs and sources of funds**

We would eventually like to create a departmental RSO associated with the minor. Should this idea take flight, the funding source would be the same as for other departmental RSOs: student services fees.