

Catalog copy: Native American Studies Minor

The Native American Studies minor offers students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of indigenous peoples of the Americas, their (pre)history, their lifeways, their languages, and the issues they face today. Active engagement in co-construction of knowledge with Native American scholars, educators and activists is encouraged and facilitated in and out of the classroom.

The minor will comprise five courses (15 Credits). The core of the minor consists of two courses, selected from the following three options: 1. ANTH 1050 Native America, 2. ANTH 3535 Native American Languages and Linguistics, 3. an archaeology course dealing with Native America chosen from the list below. The student will choose three other courses from the listed electives. Courses with 60% or more Native American content can be added to the student's program by approval of the director.

Archaeology course offerings: (one course is required for the minor, additional courses may count as electives.)

[ANTH 3260 Highland Mexican Prehistory](#)

Patterns and processes of cultural development in the highlands of central Mexico, western Mexico, and Oaxaca as known from archaeological and ethnohistorical data. Early cultures, Toltecs, Aztecs, Mixtecs, Zapotecs. Notes: See ANTH 6260.

[ANTH 4130 North American Prehistory](#)

North American Prehistory

A survey of the archaeology of Canada and the United States from the appearance of humankind in the New World to the arrival of the Europeans.

[ANTH 4260 Archaeology of the U.S. Southwest](#)

Archaeology of the U.S. Southwest

This course looks at the development of prehistoric and early historic cultures of the U.S. Southwest. Both archaeological and early historical evidence of indigenous peoples and early explorers will be examined.

[ANTH 4410 Olmec and Maya Civilization](#)

Olmec and Maya Civilization

Examines the development of highly advanced cultures and societies in one of the centers of native American civilization. Although the presentation stresses archaeological data, the course considers pre-Hispanic aesthetic achievements, social organization, values, written records, and adaptation to varying environments.

[ANTH 6100 South American Archaeology](#)

South American Archaeology

Survey of South American archaeology with primary focus on the Andean area. Overview of culture history from the Paleoindian period through the Spanish conquest.

[ANTH 6130 Southeastern United States Prehistory](#)

Southeastern United States Prehistory

Survey of the various problems of archaeology of the Southeastern United States.

Linguistic component of the core:

[ANTH 3535 Native American Languages and Linguistics](#)

This course will explore the richness of the linguistic diversity still preserved in the Native American languages of this hemisphere. Two thirds of the Native American languages spoken at time of European immigration have perished. Today even languages with large communities of fluent speakers face heavy assimilatory pressures. Language loss and simplification are rapidly changing the wordscape of the Americas. *Notes:* Writing Practica Option.

Introductory course, core option:

[ANTH 1050 Native America: an Introduction](#) Though only .9% of the US population, Native Americans have played and continue to play an important part in American society. Largely invisibilized by the foregrounding of other ethnic minority groups, Native Americans in the US struggle for recognition (federal, state, and local), for survival as cultural groups (cf. Ile de Jean Charles evacuation/resettlement), and for basic rights (legal protections, religious freedom, education, health services, and subsistence). While focusing primarily on Native American groups in the US, this course will explore the histories of indigenous peoples. Vignettes of the cultures, languages, philosophies and lifeways of indigenous Americans provide the backdrop for coming to know the modern autochthonous peoples.

Electives: The student must take three Native American content courses in addition to the core. They may choose from the following list or from archaeology courses listed above that were not used as the core required archaeology course.

[ANTH 3280 Middle American Indians](#)

Colonial and modern indigenous cultures of Mexico and Central America.

[ANTH 3050 North American Indians](#)

Native North American cultures from the time of European contact to the 20th century. Cultural variation from the Arctic to northern Mexico and the adjustments to modern life. *Notes:* See ANTH 6050.

[ANTH 3530 Arts of Native North America](#)

A survey of the great range of media and the many forms of aesthetic expression developed by the indigenous peoples of what today are the United States and Canada. The course examines the functions of art in smaller-scale societies and illustrates aspects of their dynamics. Changes in arts due to European contact, attempts at revivals of specific genres, and the emergence of named artists in the 20th century are also addressed. *Notes:* See ANTH 6530.

[ANTH 3540 Indians of the Great Plains](#)

Popularly considered as the very image of the American Indian, 19th-century Great Plains cultures were a recent and, tragically, short-lived florescence, made possible largely by the introduction of the horse. Horses encouraged the development of a new lifestyle and attracted immigrant peoples from every direction. The course will examine traditional cultures, the change to a nomadic equestrian existence, and the ways in which diverse immigration groups quickly developed very similar ways of life. *Notes:* See ANTH 6540.

[ANTH 3060 South American Indians](#)

Ethnology of the indigenous peoples of lowland South America and adjacent southern Central

America. The course examines cultural developments from prehistory to the present. Models for the classification of indigenous cultures, societies, and languages are critically reviewed.

Notes: See ANTH 6060

ANTH 3710 Historical Ecology of Amazonia

Historical Ecology of Amazonia

Interactions between local peoples and Amazonian landscapes from prehistory to the present. Amazonian landscapes as an analytic unit will be examined from the interdisciplinary perspective of historical ecology. Changes and development of forests and savannas since the arrival of human beings. Historical, ecological, cultural forces involved in biological and edaphic diversity in modern forests. Long-term effects of prehistoric and historic human occupations and manipulation of landscapes. Implications for conservation and development.

Notes: See EBIO 3710/6710 and ANTH 6710.

ANTH 4120 Conquest and Colonialism

Conquest and Colonialism

Comparative and global perspectives on the archaeology of culture contact and colonialism.

Notes: Usually offered in conjunction with ANTH 7120.

ANTH 4930 Languages of Louisiana

Languages of Louisiana

Examines the current and historical linguistic situation in Louisiana, from indigenous languages spoken at the time of contact with Europeans to the present. Covers basic features of the languages as well as their social settings. Students will further conduct independent field research projects, alone or in small groups, focusing on languages spoken in southern Louisiana, in particular in the city of New Orleans.

ANTH 6700 Spoken Nahuatl

Spoken Nahuatl

The essentials of Nahuatl phonology, morphology, and syntax. Conversational practice and laboratory sessions along with emphasis on linguistic analysis of the language.

ANTH 6800 Spoken Yucatecan Maya

Spoken Yucatecan Maya

The essentials of Yucatecan Maya phonology, morphology, and syntax. Oral/aural exercises and conversational practice with a native speaker.

credit hours: 3

ANTH 6810 Introduction to Maya Hieroglyphs

Introduction to Maya Hieroglyphs

A survey of present knowledge about the nature of the pre-Columbian Maya writing system, including calendrical notation, astronomical calculations, the structure and content of phoneticism, and its relationship to other Mesoamerican writing systems.

credit hours: 3

ANTH 6840 Beginning Kaqchikel (Maya) Language

Beginning Kaqchikel (Maya) Language

Kaqchikel is one of the four largest Mayan groups in Guatemala, having over a million self-identified members, about half of whom speak their native mother tongue. Taught in three Kaqchikel communities in Guatemala, this six week course enables students to achieve conversational fluency

and elementary reading/writing skills.

credit hours: 3

ANTH 6845 Beginning K'iche' Language

Beginning K'iche' Language

K'iche' is the largest Mayan language spoken in Guatemala, with about 2.5 million speakers. Situated in Highland Guatemala, it is second only to Spanish in number of speakers. This six week summer course is taught primarily in Nahualá, a town of about 90,000 in the Department of Sololá. Students acquire basic oral and written proficiency in the language.

credit hours: 3

ANTH 6850 Intermediate K'iche' Language

Intermediate K'iche' Language

K'iche' is the largest of the Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala, with about 2.5 million speakers. K'iche' is the language of the home, the market, increasingly the schools and the political arena. This six week summer course is taught primarily in Nahualá, a town of about 90,000 in the Department of Sololá. Students solidify their spoken and written fluency and become acquainted with K'iche' literature and grammar. Prerequisite: ANTH 6845 or permission of instructor.

Pre-requisites: ANTH 6845

credit hours: 3

ANTH 6855 Advanced K'iche' Language

Advanced K'iche' Language

K'iche' is the largest of the Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala, with about 2.5 million speakers. K'iche' is the language of the home, the market, increasingly the schools and the political arena. This six week summer course is taught primarily in Nahualá, a town of about 90,000 in the Department of Sololá. Students solidify their spoken and written fluency and become acquainted with K'iche' literature and grammar. Prerequisite: ANTH 6850 or permission of instructor.

ANTH 6860 Introduction to K'iche' Culture

Introduction to K'iche' Culture

This course is an introduction to K'iche' (Maya) culture for students participating in the Mayan Language Institute realized in Guatemala in the municipalities of Antigua and Nahualá. The course will cover basic issues in K'iche' culture and society and present hands-on workshops dealing with specific aspects of the culture. Topics will include kinship patterns and relationships, social interactions, gender roles, religious practices, arts and crafts, and economic structures. Students will have direct experience learning about K'iche' cuisine, milpa agriculture, weaving, religious ceremonies, calendrical practices, and ceremonial and ritual observances. In addition, students will study examples of contemporary art, music, and literature, including the work of K'iche' poets such as Humberto Ak'abal and Pablo Garcia.

LING 3000 Tunica: Louisiana's Sleeping Language

Since 2009, Tulane has been collaborating with the Tunica to bring back their language, the last speaker, Sesostrie Youchigant having died over fifty years ago. This course addresses the processes of language death, as well as methods and initiatives for language revitalization. Students will learn effective second language teaching methods and elementary Tunica. They will then apply what they have learned, serving as teaching assistants during the tribe's Language Summer Camp. The Tunica-Biloxi tribe will host the course in Marksville. Second tier service learning co-req.

ANTH 4920 Re-awakening Tunica, a sleeping language of Louisiana, CPS internship

This course addresses the processes of language death, as well as methods and initiatives for language revitalization. Students will learn effective second language teaching methods and elementary Tunica. They will then apply what they have learned developing teaching materials, primary and secondary literature, games, songs and cultural resources for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana. These resources will be made available in a variety of formats: digital (CD and online, interactive and passive-informational), print, audio, audio-visual, game formats (digital and non-), and physical activities. **Service learning 2nd tier, co-req.**

ENLS 4870 Global Literatures

Global Literatures

The Global Literatures course explores several major literary traditions as they come in contact with one another: the course typically includes Western, Arabic-Islamic, Chinese, and Latin American Literatures in historical and cultural context. *Pre-requisites:* ENLS 2000.

ARHS 3700 Pre-Columbian Art

An introduction to the art and architecture of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America) and the Andes (Peru, Bolivia). The course focuses on the historical, political, and religious contexts of the visual arts and addresses the function of these artworks as ideological statements.

ARHS 6720 Seminar on Aztec Arts

Prerequisite: ARHS 370 or approval of instructor. Intensive investigation of Aztec arts as fundamental manifestations of Aztec imperial ideology (especially political and religious). The course concentrates on the urban iconographic programs developed in sculpture and architecture and considers the role of ritual and performance within these programs. It also reviews the sixteenth century sources (pictorial and alphabetic) that are used to understand Aztec culture.

Additional courses: This is a one credit TIDES course and does NOT count toward the minor, but may be taken as a first year student as an introduction to indigenous cultures of Louisiana.

TIDES Indian Tribes Down The Bayou: Native American Communities of Southeastern Louisiana.

Laura Kelly. Students collaborate with the Pointe aux Chênes Indian Tribe of Louisiana and other local Native American groups to document history and cultural practice. Findings are shared with the tribes in formal public presentations.