

Courses offered by the NMU Center for Native American Studies

NAS 101 Anishinaabe Language, Culture and Community I

4 credits

An introduction to Anishinaabemowin language including grammar, vocabulary, idioms and syllabics. Students will learn to read, write and speak basic Anishinaabemowin. This course also promotes the preservation of Anishinaabe culture by examining various facets of Anishinaabe everyday life and contemporary issues. *Applies toward the division V liberal studies requirement.*

NAS 102 Anishinaabe Language, Culture and Community II

4 credits

An in-depth study of Anishinaabemowin language. This course is a continuation of materials introduced in **NAS 101**. Students will focus on higher-level use of the language and will apply it in situations related to contemporary Anishinaabe cultural issues and community structures. *Applies toward the division V liberal studies requirement.*

NAS 204 Native American Experience

4 credits

A study of the development of Native American history, culture, attitudes and issues from the prehistoric era to the contemporary scene, focusing on native culture in the Great Lakes region. Shared native world view, contact experience and native peoples' contributions to world culture are an important part of the course. *Applies toward the division II liberal studies requirement and world cultures requirement.*

NAS 207 Seasonal Exploration Anishinaabe Language

4 credits

Prerequisite: NAS 101 or NAS 295 when pertaining directly to Anishinaabe language or instructor permission. The skills necessary for speaking Anishinaabe through experiential opportunities, cultural outdoor activities as well as classroom activity and group work during fall, winter or spring experiences that emphasize indigenous traditional knowledge. *Applies toward the division V liberal studies requirement. Note: May be repeated once for each season. 207a – fall, 207b – winter, 207c –spring.*

NAS 212 Michigan and Wisconsin Tribes, Treaties and Current Issues

4 credits

An examination of the twenty-three federally recognized tribes of Michigan and Wisconsin and how treaties with the federal government shaped their history and contemporary political make-up. Treaty rights, sovereignty, urban communities and tribal enterprises will also be explored. *Applies toward the division IV liberal studies requirement and world cultures requirement.*

NAS 224 Native American Beadwork Styles

4 credits

An introduction to Native American beadwork styles from varied regions. The course blends reading and lecture with practical application of Native American beadwork. Content includes American Indian arts and crafts law.

NAS 280 Storytelling by Native American Women

4 credits

This course examines a myriad of historic and contemporary aspects of native life through the eyes and stories of Native American women. Subjects include customs, culture, family, generations, mothers, daughters, grandmothers, art, education, fiction, poetry, political activism and spirituality. *Applies toward the division II liberal studies requirement and world cultures requirement.*

NAS 288 The Politics of Indian Gaming

4 credits

Students will gain insight into contemporary issues surrounding the laws and politics of Indian gaming. It is designed to introduce students to the complexity of inter/intra-governmental relationships that bring together tribal governments and other external governments (i.e. local, state, federal and international). *Applies toward the division IV liberal studies requirement.*

NAS 310 Tribal Law and Government

4 credits

Prerequisite: EN 211 with a grade of "C" or better or HON 102 and HON 112 and sophomore standing.

A focus on the relationship between American Indian tribes, the federal government and states. Emphasis is placed on examining the current state of tribal governments and tribal citizens within the State of Michigan. Students will examine the U.S. Constitution, treaties and tribals [tribes], federal and state laws and court cases. *Applies toward the division IV liberal studies requirement and the upper division liberal studies requirement.*

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NAS 315 History of Indian Boarding School Education

4 credits

The history of the initiation, development, alteration and demise of the federally mandated Indian boarding school education experience in the U.S. and Canada. Intergenerational and contemporary repercussions, both positive and negative, within indigenous societies are considered. *Applies toward the division II liberal studies requirement and the upper division liberal studies requirement.*

NAS 320 American Indians: Identity and Media Images

4 credits

An analysis of the identity and images of American Indians portrayed within the historic and contemporary media. Perpetuation of stereotypes and appropriate or distorted cultural images, symbols, beliefs, stories and contributions by native people to the media will be explored. *Applies toward the division II liberal studies requirement and the upper division liberal studies requirement.*

NAS 330 Native Cultures and the Dynamics of Religious Experience

4 credits

An examination of the traditional philosophies of the native peoples in the Great Lakes region as well as an exploration of how Christianity has influenced native peoples and communities. Students will learn about the historical impacts, positive and negative, that organized religion has had on Indian country. *Applies toward the division II liberal studies requirement, the upper division liberal studies requirement and the world cultures requirement.*

NAS 340 Kinomaage: Earth Shows Us the Way

4 credits

Kinomaage, when translated, is "Earth shows us the way." Students will examine various plants of the Northwoods that have been traditionally used by the Anishinaabeg. Students will also examine the close relationship between Anishinaabeg [Anishinaabe] peoples, culture and the Earth while comparing that relationship to modern day society's view of the environment.

NAS 342 Indigenous Environmental Movements

4 credits

An exploration of the historical and cultural foundations of the paradigms that led to the ecological exploitation of Indigenous lands. Students will examine how Indigenous cultures today are resisting domination and working to regain, protect and nurture their lands, the planet and their ways of life. *Applies toward the division IV liberal studies requirement, the upper division liberal studies requirement and the world cultures requirement.*

NAS 414 First Nations Women

4 credits

Focus on issues, topics affecting First Nations women of yesterday and today. Notable First Nations women will be explored along with multiple concepts including: relationships within tribal communities, spiritual health and survival of tribal nations.

NAS 484 Native American Inclusion in the Classroom

4 credits

This course will challenge students' preconceptions of what Native American inclusion means and provide methods and materials that will help them meet state standards while effectively including Native American cultural concepts across the curriculum. Emphasis is on State of Michigan standards and Anishinaabe language and cultural concepts.

NAS 485 American Indian Education

3 credits

Students will explore significant American Indian education policy from pre-colonial times to the present day. Students will investigate treaties with educational provisions, current U.S. federal Indian education law; standards-based reform and Native American inclusion. Through online chat rooms, students will discuss these issues with individuals from different parts of the world.

NAS 486 American Indian Educational Law and Leadership

3 credits

Unique legal educational leadership relationships between American Indian tribes, federal, and state governments and k-12 schools are explored. Content includes aboriginal and treaty rights to education, federal and state Indian education laws, and contemporary tribal laws regarding American Indian education.

NAS 488 Native American Service Learning Project

4 credits

This is a capstone course for the Native American Studies minor. Students will complete an approved service learning project in Native American Studies under the guidance of the Director of the Center for Native American Studies upon completion of all other requirements for the minor (*prior to fall 2009*).