

Native American and Indigenous Studies

Native American and Indigenous studies is the interdisciplinary study of the histories, experiences, languages, cultures, knowledges, politics, and contemporary issues of Native American and/or Indigenous tribes, peoples, and communities in the United States from Native American and Indigenous perspectives.

Topics in Native American and Indigenous studies courses include Indigenous history and culture, Indigenous nationhood, tribal governments, sovereignty, decolonization, language preservation and revitalization, environmental justice, economic development, health care, and the diversity and beauty of contemporary Indigenous lives and experiences.

Academic and Career Pathway

Social and Behavioral Sciences (<https://www.miracosta.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-programs/social-and-behavioral-sciences/>)

Contact Information

Chair: Olivia Quintanilla
Dean: Jonathan Fohrman

Department: Ethnic Studies
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Courses

NAIS 100: Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies

Units: 3

Prerequisites: None

Acceptable for Credit: CSU

Lecture 3 hours.

Course Typically Offered: Fall, Spring

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Native American and Indigenous studies using ethnic studies theories and methods. Students learn the diversity of traditional Native Americans across Turtle Island (i.e., the continent of North America), with a focus on tribes in California and San Diego. Topics include the history of settler colonialism, genocide, manifest destiny, displacement, reservations, and forced assimilation. Students engage with the complex legal and political experiences of Native communities, such as the formation of treaties, tribal governance systems, sovereignty, and international law. Students also examine the revitalization, renaissance, and resurgence of Native American agency, identity, cultural practices, communities, and environmental movements. The course requires students to connect with living Native peoples through community engagement and service learning opportunities.