

Native Studies

Native Studies is an academic discipline designed to provide both Native and non-Native students with an opportunity to explore the cultural, historical, and contemporary situation of Native people of North America. The Native Studies program offers students core courses in Native Studies with interdisciplinary course offerings.

Major in Native Studies

Students majoring in Native Studies are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours in Native Studies, including the following courses:

NATI 1006	Introduction to Native Studies
NATI 2503	Research Strategies in Native Studies
NATI 3203	Native Philosophy
NATI 3603	Native People and the Colonial Experience
NATI 3903	Native People and the Law I

In addition to the number of courses offered by Native Studies, courses may also be drawn from the cross-listed course offerings and the University of New Brunswick with permission from the Chair of Native Studies.

Courses without formal prerequisites and numbered in the 2000 or 3000-range are intended for students who have completed 30 credit hours of courses at the 1000-level. While not always a formal prerequisite, students are strongly encouraged to take NATI-1006 prior to taking a course at the 2000- or 3000-level. Assistance in planning a course of studies for the Major in Native Studies is available through the Chair of Native Studies.

Any 18 credit hours in Native Studies is sufficient to constitute a Minor in Native Studies.

Honours in Native Studies

Students interested in an honours degree in Native Studies should inform the Chair of the Native Studies Department by the beginning of their third year and, in consultation with their thesis supervisor, submit a thesis proposal by the end of their third year. Entrance to the Native Studies Honours Program normally requires a 3.3 GPA in Native Studies courses and a 3.0 GPA in all other courses. Students who do not meet the GPA requirements can appeal and have a departmental evaluation. The department would consider extenuating circumstances as well as substantial improvement in student performance.

Completion Requirements

Completion of an honours degree in Native Studies requires students to complete 54 credit hours in Native Studies or cross-listed courses. In addition to completing the required courses for a Major in Native Studies (with a minimum of 36 credit hours), students are required to complete the Advanced Research Methods course (NATI 3503) and the 6 credit Honours thesis, and at least one course from each of the three subsections below (for a total minimum of 54 credit hours):

Advanced Course on Aboriginal History

NATI 3603	Native People and the Colonial Experience
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- NATI 3633 Maliseet/Passamaquoddy History
NATI 3643 Mi'kmaq History
NATI 3943 Métis Issues
NATI 4623 The Archaeology of First Nations History in Canada: Theory

Advanced Course on Law and Regulation

NATI 3713

NATI-1123. Beginning Maliseet/Passamaquoddy II

This course is intended to follow Beginning Maliseet/Passamaquoddy I (NATI 1113) in an

NATI-2203. First Nations Arts and Sciences

This course focuses on the relationship between science, art, environment, and material forms of life as practiced by various First Nations. It will examine especially the science involved in the arts of stone, wood, and leather-work for the production of tools, food, clothing, shelter, and canoes. Prerequisite: Introduction to Native Studies, NATI 1006.

NATI-2213. Native Literature

This course introduces students to a broad range of Native literature and Native oral traditions written and translated into English. Works by Native people of diverse First Nations will be carefully studied and critically evaluated. By focusing on a variety of approaches to creative expression, students will be able to develop an informed understanding of, and appreciation for, the intrinsic value of Native oral and literary traditions.

NATI-2233. Natural Resources and First Nations of The Maritimes

This course will survey archaeological and historical records for traditional economic activities, and focus on the practices and philosophies integral to First Nations forms of life in the Maritimes. It will address the historical political and social factors that have impacted on those practices, including colonialism, immigration, education, industrialization, capitalism, regulation, and environmental degradation. It will also consider the struggles of First Nations in this region to maintain and/or reclaim access to traditional lands and resources. Prerequisite: NATI 1006, Introduction to Native Studies.

NATI-2303. Science, Ethics and Native People

This course is designed to introduce students to ethical issues that arise between the sciences (both social and physical) and indigenous peoples. Anthropology, education, psychology, archaeology, medicine, biology, and other disciplines follow lines of inquiry that impact indigenous peoples, and their theories, methods, interpretations, and interests are examined in relation to ethical considerations. We emphasize the concerns and point of view of Native people. The course may include issues of exhumation and public display of skeletal remains and sacred objects, control over access to information, the political relevance of research and its role in land claims, the ethics of assessment and drawing conclusions about the "nature" of indigenous peoples, and other topics.

NATI-2503. Research Strategies in Native Studies

Surveys various research strategies from Anthropology and Sociology and assesses their applicability to, and compatibility with, Native Studies. Considers special protocol and ethical questions in research on Native peoples. Prerequisite: NATI 1006 or by special permission of instructor.

NATI-2603. Roles of Native Women

This course looks at the traditional role of Native women within Native societies, and how that role has changed over time. It will examine the oppression that Native women have experienced, their responses to it, and the political, economic, social, and spiritual roles they have played both in their own struggles for liberation and in the struggles of their people. Will also look at the lives and voices of prominent Native women, and consider the development of Native women's organizations and the influences of feminism.

NATI-3103. Conversational Mi'kmaq

This course emphasizes fluency using all forms taught in Intermediate Mi'kmaq. Class will be conducted as an immersion class, and oral traditions of storytelling and public speaking will be featured. Prerequisite: Intermediate Mi'kmaq NATI 2103 or basic fluency in Mi'kmaq.

NATI-3113. Conversational Maliseet/Passamaquoddy

This course emphasizes fluency using all forms taught in Intermediate Mi?kmaq. Class will be conducted as an immersion class, and oral traditions of storytelling and public speaking will be featured. Prerequisite: Intermediate Maliseet NATI 2113 or basic fluency in Maliseet.

NATI-3203. Native Philosophy

This course examines Native cosmologies (world views) and ways of thinking, feeling, and knowing as the foundation of indigenous spiritual, political, social, and economic systems. Defines the continuing existence and vitality of traditional Native philosophy and traces its influence on Western knowledge. Prerequisite: NATI 1006 or by permission of instructor.

NATI-3223. Native Environmental Ethics and Ecology

Examines traditional and contemporary environmental values and practices of Indigenous peoples in North America. Considers the impact of adicms.

NATI-3603. Native People and the Colonial Experience

This course will look at colonialism as a strategy of imperialism and as a model for understanding North American Native history. Different types of colonialism will be explored, i.e. classic, internal, and neocolonialism, and an emphasis will be placed on the history and continuing impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples and cultures of North America. The course will also analyze Christian missions, the fur trade, and colonial government policies, as well as exploitation, racism, war, indoctrination, genocide, and cultural appropriation as manifestations of colonialism. Responses to colonialism, including resistance and decolonization, will also be considered. Prerequisite: NATI 1006.

NATI-3613. Native Resistance and Liberation

Focuses on the many historical and contemporary forms of Native resistance to colonization, including violent and non-violent resistance, revitalization movements, and self-determination. Explores liberation theory and its roots in colonial oppression. Analyzes historical and contemporary resistance movements such as the Ghost Dance Movement, the Riel Rebellion, the fish-ins, the confrontations at Wounded Knee and Oka, and the movement for decolonization through self-determination. Prerequisite: NATI 3603 or by special permission of the instructor.

NATI-3623. Native Education and Colonization

This course will examine traditional forms and philosophies of education in Native societies, and the changes that have occurred since contact and colonization. It will also examine the formal education of Natives by the immigrant society as indoctrination for civilization and assimilation. It will look closely at residential and day schools in Canada and the United States and the effect they have had on contemporary Native societies and cultures. Special attention will be given to the relationship between education and cultural survival, and the importance for Native people to reclaim and control the education of their children. Prerequisite: NATI 3603 or permission of the instructor.

NATI-3633. Maliseet/Passamaquoddy History

This course will explore the cultural, social, and political past of the Maliseet/Passamaquoddy People through archaeological, oral, visual, and material documentation, as well as primary and secondary written sources. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding the Maliseet form of life and how it has been affected by colonization. Class will also study how the perspective of different writers influences what gets recorded and taught as history. An important theme of the course will be the relevance of the past to the present. Class will consist of lectures and discussions with occasional films and special speakers. Prerequisite: NATI 1006, Introduction to Native Studies.

NATI-3643. Mi'kmaq History

This course will explore the cultural, social, and political past of the Mi'kmaq People through archaeological, oral, visual, and material documentation, as well as primary and secondary written sources. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding the Mi'kmaq form of life and how it has been affected by colonization. Class will also study how the perspective of different writers influences what gets recorded and taught as history. An important theme of the course will be the relevance of the past to the present. Class will consist of lectures and discussions with occasional films and speakers. Prerequisite: NATI 1006, Introduction to Native Studies.

communities (concentrating on Canada for the most part, but including reference to such issues in other indigenous communities worldwide). Traditional uses of substances which alter consciousness are reviewed, as well as the role that the introduction of unfamiliar psychoactive substances played in European expansionism and colonialism. Modern models of addiction and programs for recovery are critically examined and placed within the context of creating a continuing marginalization of indigenous cultures by dominating ones.

NATI-3863. Indian Public Health

Health statistics show Native Peoples in Canada as public health disasters: high rates of diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer, suicide, AIDS, etc. are regularly reported. Standard accounts typically find a way of attributing the problems to Indians themselves (e.g., genetic explanations or lifestyle choices). We critically examine the methodologically-individualistic biases of standard accounts of Indian ill-health and place Native public health issues in an historical and materialist framework instead. Alternative forms of interventions are also considered.

NATI-3873. Introduction to Indigenous/Cultural Psychology

While psychology has an important place in examining and understanding issues of the modern world, it has long been shown to be founded upon certain ideological presumptions that make it inapplicable to and inappropriate for work with indigenous peoples. A different formulation of psychology, which predated the current form but which was abandoned for no substantial reason, has in recent years been offered as a replacement, or at least an alternative, for the current model. We examine

the strengths and weaknesses of this alternative model. We also examine the role of psychology in the development of indigenous psychology.

NATI-3943. Métis Issues


The goal of this course is to familiarize the student with the Métis people of western Canada. Other "mixed blood" or dual-culture populations will be studied for comparative

in researching and writing First Nations history. Prerequisite: NATI 1006.

NATI-4633. The Archaeology of First Nations History In Canada: Practice

This course is intended to follow NATI 4623 and focus on the period 1900 to the present. Students will be expected to research a particular topic within the context of Canadian history, identify what has been left out, and explicate why this is likely the case. Students will also learn to access and evaluate a broad variety of sources including archives, oral traditions, and internet sources. The goal will be to develop the capacity for evaluating and reinterpreting standard accounts, and for articulating new understandings. Prerequisite: NATI 4623.

NATI-4996. Honours Thesis

Students are required to complete 

studies the internal structure of words. It looks especially at the smallest units which have the ability to change meaning in a word, and defines the grammatical rules that apply. Prerequisite: NATI 2103, Intermediate Mi'kmaq, or NATI 2113, Intermediate Maliseet/Passamaquoddy, or the equivalent, or fluency in the language.

NATI-4223. Phonology in the Target Language I

Phonology is the study of general phonetics in relation to the sound system of a language. Focusing on the target First Nation language it will consider the reproduction of sounds, particularly consonants and vowels, and study the various orthographies (writing systems) of the language. Prerequisite: NATI 2103, Intermediate Mi'kmaq, or NATI 2113, Intermediate Maliseet/Passamaquoddy or the equivalent, or fluency in the language.

NATI-4233. Verbs in the Target Language I

This course will analyze verb stems, animate and inanimate, transitive and intransitive verbs, and additional structural elements including person, tense, singular, plural, negative and affirmative, in indicative, conjunct and imperative forms. Prerequisite: NATI 1103, Beginning Mi'kmaq, or NATI 1113, Beginning Maliseet/Passamaquoddy, or the equivalent, or fluency in the language.

NATI-4243. Phonology in the Target Language II

This course is intended primarily for students in an intensive language learning program. It will provide practical experience with elements of Phonology in the Target Language I, with special emphasis on reading and writing. Pre-requisites are NATI 4223 Phonology in the Target Language I.

NATI-4263. Verbs in The Target Language II

This course builds on knowledge of verb forms taught in NATI-4233 and introduces more complex forms such as the true plural, changed and unchanged conjunct, inverse forms, indefinite subject forms, absentative and dubitative preterit. Students will be asked to analyze existing texts in the language and develop their own texts using the various forms. Pre-requisites: NATI-4233. Verbs in the Target Language I or by special permission.

Immersion Courses

NATI-4163. Language Arts in Preschool (Immersion)

This course is designed to introduce teachers to methods for teaching non-fluent preschoolers in the medium of the target language. Using an activity centered orientation it focuses on fluency for children ages one to five in a progression based on the centrality of verbs in First Nations languages. Students will also learn how to incorporate fun and play into all aspects of their teaching. Prerequisite: Conversational Mi'kmaq, NATI 3123 or Conversational Maliseet/Passamaquoddy, NATI 3103, or the equivalent, or fluency in the target language.

NATI-4243. Literature and Writing in the Target Language (Immersion)

This course, conducted entirely in the target language, will survey and analyze published materials in the language focusing on representative samples from early historic documents and liturgical writings, to dictionaries, recorded oral traditions, and more contemporary documents, including children's literature and curriculum materials. Particular attention will be paid to content, orthographies, grammatical changes, and historical and contemporary uses for the texts. Students will also gain experience writing essays in the language. Prerequisite: NATI 3103. Conversational Mi'kmaq, or NATI 3113 Conversational Maliseet/Passamaquoddy, or the equivalent, or fluency in the target language.

NATI-4443. History in the Target Language (Immersion)

This course, conducted entirely in a First Nation language, will focus on pre-contact and post-contact history, both oral and written. Texts used for the course will be those materials written in the language, both manuscript and published sources. Speakers on oral history will be invited and tape collections, where available, will be utilized. Students will be expected to research and write papers in the language on selected topics. Prerequisite: NATI 3103 Conversational Mi'kmaq, or NATI 3113 Conversational Maliseet/ Passamaquoddy, or the equivalent, or fluency in the target language.

Cross-Listed Courses

ANTH 2313	Archaeology of Early Societies – The Americas
ANTH 2013-2153	Area Ethnography
HMRT 1006	Introduction to Human Rights
POLS 3503	Human Rights in International Relations and Foreign Policy
RELG 3473	Native American Religions
RELG 3483	Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Religions
SOCI 2013	Research Methods
SOCI 2023	Introduction to Statistics

NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.