



OCEANIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDIES MINOR

What will I learn?

The Oceania and Pacific Islander Studies (OPIS) Minor offers students an opportunity to learn about the histories and contemporary cultures of Oceania through academic coursework and community experiences. The OPIS curriculum is multidisciplinary, comparative, and designed to increase students' critical and transformative thinking about all aspects of knowledge and practice related to Oceania.

How do I apply?

The OPIS minor is an open minor: there are no prerequisites and no admissions process. Students in good academic standing can declare the minor at any time once they have a declared major. Contact Kai Wise (kaiwise@uw.edu) to add the minor.

REQUIRED COURSES	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS	QTR
AIS 102	Introduction to American Indian Studies	5	AUT only
1 API Course	AAS 206 (WIN) or AAS 210 (SPR) or ANTH 309	5	Any
1 Practicum Course	AES 494, AIS 497, or ANTH 489	5	Any
2 Elective Courses	Any course from approved list, at least 5 credits at the 300/400 level	10	Any
Total		25	



Professor Holly Barker and students from her class examine a Tongan ngatu, or tapa cloth, from the Burke Museum collection.



Members of the UW Micronesia Islands Club perform at the celebration for the launch of the new Oceania and Pacific Islander Studies minor in March 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES • BOX 354305 • UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON • SEATTLE, WA 98195
(206) 543-9082 • NATIVE@UW.EDU • PADEFORD HALL C-514 • AIS.WASHINGTON.EDU



Minor Courses Offered

Winter 2026

AAS 320/AIS 375 Hawai'i Literature with Noelani Montas
EDUC 340 Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies
ENGL 257 Asian American Literature
SMEA 103 Society and the Oceans

Spring 2026

*ASTR 190 Indigenous Pacific Astrophysics with Brittany Kamai (still being confirmed)

Ongoing Practicum Opportunities

Research Family at the Burke Museum – contact Holly Barker (hmbarker@uw.edu)
Research Reports on Educational Wellbeing for AAPI – contact Tino Camacho (sgtino@uw.edu)

Practicum Course Options

Examples of Practicum experiences include community research or work while studying abroad, internship with a local community organization, special project with a campus organization such as PSA or PISC, research/community work at the Burke Museum, public health research with PI communities in Seattle, etc. If you aren't sure what to do, chat with Kai to brainstorm ideas for a project that fits your interests and schedule.

OPIS Elective Courses

AAS 300/ANTH 307 U.S. Pacific Islander Contemporary Culture
AAS 320 Hawai'i's Literature
AAS 360 Critical Filipino American Histories
AAS 385 Asian & Pacific Islander Americans: Race, Law, and Justice
AAS 392/GWSS 392 Asian American and Pacific Islander Women
AAS 402 Contemporary Asian American Literature
ART H 333 Indigenous Body Adornment
ANTH 306 Pacific Islander Representation
ANTH 312 Pacific Islander Literature and Film
ARCHY 325 Archaeology of Islands of Southeast Asia and the Pacific
EDUC 340 Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies (WIN only)
ENGL 257 Asian American Literature
SMEA 103 Society and the Oceans
SMEA 485 Pacific Tourism (3 credits)

*Any other course that has significant Oceania/Pacific Islander Studies content may be approved by the program advisor. Common courses include study abroad to Tahiti, Aotearoa, and special topics ANTH classes taught by Holly Barker

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