

# DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

The American Indian Studies Department at the University of Washington advances and promotes knowledge integral to Native peoples through research, teaching, and community service. It is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.



Tami Hohn, AIS assistant teaching professor, teaching a class on the Southern Lushootseed language and culture.

## Education

American Indian Studies approaches its teaching and research from a decolonized, community based, and global perspective. American Indian Studies faculty and students strive to develop innovative theories and methodologies that increase knowledge about Indigenous Peoples and support the needs of Indigenous communities. The department promotes faculty and student exchange programs with institutions that are committed to a deeper understanding of Indigenous communities and Peoples throughout the world.

The American Indian Studies Department offers a major in American Indian Studies, a minor in American Indian Studies, a minor in Oceania and Pacific Islander Studies, and a graduate certificate in American Indian and Indigenous Studies. The department is also the home of a newly created research center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies. The Center aims to support research being done in American Indian and Indigenous Studies across all three UW campuses, as well as collaborations with the surrounding Native Community.

## Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Management Certificate

The department offers a certificate in Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Management, taught in collaboration with faculty from the Foster School of Business. The program teaches students the essentials of accounting, finance, business management, and marketing, with a specific focus on the tribal gaming and hospitality industry. The certificate was created in response to community requests for continuing education opportunities and development of professional skills. The certificate is designed with experiential learning in mind and the majority of class sessions are held on site at various partner casinos throughout the state of Washington.



Tribal Gaming and Hospitality Management Certificate graduates for 2019.

## Honoring and Nurturing Indigenous Knowledges and Communities

### STUDENTS (Winter 2021)

- 15 Undergraduate majors
- 23 Undergraduate minors
- 1,069 Students taught in 2020

### DEGREES AWARDED (2019-2020)

- 12 Bachelor of Arts degrees

### A SAMPLE OF AIS COURSES:

AIS 103 The Indigenous Pacific Northwest

AIS 170: American Indian Art and Aesthetics

AIS 209: The Unsettling of the Red Continent: American Indian History to 1815

AIS 314/315/316: Southern Lushootseed Language and Culture

AIS 335: American Indians and the Law

AIS 377: Contemporary American Indian Literature

AIS 379: Powwow: Traditions and Innovation

AIS 380 Indigenous Food Sovereignty

AIS 385: Indigenous Ecologies and Climate Change

AIS 480: Indigenous Resistance and Resurgence Movements in the United States, Canada, and Mexico

## Research

American Indian Studies faculty, whose scholarship represents a range of academic disciplines, are nationally and internationally known for their work. Published works by our faculty include:

- *The Living Breath of wə́təbʔəltx̣ʷ: Indigenous Foods and Ecological Knowledge*
- *Reclaiming the Reservation: Histories of Indian Sovereignty*
- *The Power of Promises: Rethinking Indian Treaties in the Pacific Northwest*
- *Spirits of Our Whaling Ancestors: Revitalizing Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth Traditions*
- *Indians in the Making*
- *Therapeutic Nations: Healing in an Age of Indigenous Human Rights*
- *Cherokee Stories of the Turtle Island Liars' Club*
- *Deep Waters: The Textual Continuum in American Indian Literature*
- *The Sea is My Country: The Maritime World of the Makahs*
- *Colonial Entanglement: Constituting a Twenty-First-Century Osage Nation*

## Outreach and Student Support

When Native American students are in the process of selecting a university, they consistently ask two questions:

- 1) Does the university have a Native Studies program?
- 2) How many Native professors are at the university?

The American Indian Studies Department at the University of Washington allows for positive answers to both questions. Moreover, since cultural support is so crucial to the retention and graduation of Native students, American Indian Studies also plays a vital role in the process from recruitment to graduation for the University's 500+ Native students.

Yearly, American Indian Studies—through advising, staffing, and direct financial contributions—supports major Native American events on campus:

**The Annual Raven's Feast Native American Graduation Ceremony.** Held on campus at wə́təbʔəltx̣ʷ Intellectual House, Raven's Feast celebrates the achievement of all University of Washington Native American graduates: bachelor, masters, doctorate and professional degrees. Professor Marvin Oliver, a renowned Northwest artist, provides an original framed print to each graduate. Led by Oliver, American Indian faculty and staff at the University host a salmon feast for 500-600 participants, including graduates and their families.

**Sacred Breath: Writing and Storytelling Series.** This series features Indigenous writers and storytellers at wə́təbʔəltx̣ʷ Intellectual House.

**The Living Breath of wə́təbʔəltx̣ʷ: Indigenous Foods and Ecological Knowledge Symposium.** This annual event brings together individuals to share their knowledge on topics such as tribal food justice and security, traditional foods, health, community, place, responsibility, climate change, and treaty rights.

**The Annual University of Washington Powwow.** For nearly 35 years, in support of the First Nations student organization, American Indian Studies has helped create and support a two-day competitive powwow, the second largest in the Northwest. The powwow draws between 10,000 to 15,000 participants and spectators.

**Internship with Pyramid Communications Indian Country Division.** In partnership with Pyramid Communications' Indian Country team, students have the opportunity to complete a paid 5-credit internship that allows students to build valuable work experience while getting the chance to work on Native causes with Native people. Students gain experience working with tribes, corporations, universities, environmental groups, and more, while applying the Indigenous systems of thought taught in American Indian Studies in the workforce.

## FACULTY (Winter 2021)

- 1 Professor  
Christopher B. Teuton (Cherokee Nation)
- 4 Associate Professors  
Charlotte Coté (Nuu-chah-nulth)  
Jean Dennison (Osage)  
Dian Million (Tanana Athabaskan)  
Joshua L. Reid (Snohomish)
- 1 Assistant Professor  
Joshua P. Griffin
- 1 Assistant Teaching Professor  
Tami Hohn (Puyallup)
- 4 Lecturers  
Iisaaksiichaa Braine (Apsalooke Nation)  
Roger Fernandes (Lower Elwha Klallam)  
Dawn Hardison-Stevens (Omushkeg Cree-Metis/  
Ojibway/Cowlitz/Steilacoom Tribal Council)  
Scott Pinkham (Nez Perce)
- 9 Adjunct Faculty  
Chadwick Allen (Chickasaw)  
Kathryn Bunn-Marcuse  
María Elena García  
Sara L. Gonzalez  
Sven Haakanson (Aluutiq)  
Clarita Lefthand-Begay (Navajo)  
Tony Lucero  
Cynthia R. Pearson  
Megan Ybarra
- 6 Emeritus Faculty  
Tom Colonnese  
Alexandra Harmon  
Daniel Hart  
Cheryl Metoyer (Cherokee)  
Luana Ross (Salish)  
Gary Witherspoon



Top: Members of the Micronesia Club perform at the celebration for the launch of the OPIS minor.

Above: AIS lecturer Roger Fernandes telling stories outside the Intellectual House as part of a UW Dawg Daze event.

last update: February 2021