American Indian Studies Paradigm

The American Indian Studies Paradigm is grounded in the experiences of American Indian nations, peoples, communities and organizations from American Indian perspectives. Its principles are rooted in the concepts of sovereignty and indigeneity. It recognizes that disparate world-views, literatures, knowledge systems, political structures, and languages characterize Indian societies within the United States but that they share commonalities that link them with other indigenous peoples of the world. It acknowledges that colonialism has impacted sovereignty, human rights, landholdings, religious freedom, health, welfare and cultural integrity of Indian nations.

AIS focuses on the protection and strengthening of Indian sovereignty, self-determination, self-sufficiency and human rights. AIS faculty must view their teaching, research, and service as a “sacred” responsibility to Indian nations undertaken for the sake of cultural survival. AIS provides a curriculum for the intellectual, ethical, and social development of students so they will acquire a comprehensive and practical understanding of U.S. Indian law and policy, colonization/decolonization and nation building.

To view full paradigm: americanindian.asu.edu/ais-paradigm

Philanthropy fuels possibilities

When you give to American Indian Studies, you become a partner in the academic success of our students, the research discoveries of our faculty and the continued effort to make the world better. You are also supporting a top-ranked research university that is committed to finding solutions to some of our most pressing concerns. From scholarship support to funding for a specific research cause, your generosity and continued investment impact our community profoundly.

americanindian.asu.edu
AIS@asu.edu

Our dedicated community of scholars embraces concepts of learning, teaching and discovery. We strive to make a difference in the lives of others.

― Stephanie Fitzgerald, Director American Indian Studies

American Indian Studies
Fact sheet
Social sciences

— Stephanie Fitzgerald, Director American Indian Studies
The mission of American Indian Studies is to prepare scholars grounded in an academic program designed to protect the integrity, identity and sovereignty of indigenous populations. We promote indigenous intellectualism to transform society and achieve balance by bridging traditional and contemporary knowledge systems that are vital to self-determination and cultural sustainability.

Cultivating an inclusive environment

Our program is driven by inclusion and diversity. At the intersection of access and excellence, we create opportunity. Our dedicated community of scholars embraces concepts of learning, teaching and discovery. We strive to make a difference in the lives of others. We develop leaders grounded in cultural integrity, sovereignty and indigenous knowledge.

Developing leaders grounded in cultural integrity, sovereignty and indigenous knowledge

The mission of American Indian Studies is to prepare scholars grounded in an academic program designed to protect the integrity, identity and sovereignty of indigenous populations. We promote indigenous intellectualism to transform society and achieve balance by bridging traditional and contemporary knowledge systems that are vital to self-determination and cultural sustainability.

Faculty highlight

Our expert faculty conduct research on health disparities, human rights violations, repatriation, language revitalization, and self-governance that has political impact and relevance for American Indian nations. We privilege oral history and traditional knowledge while promoting collaborative community-based research methods from American Indian perspectives.

Leading global impact and innovative solutions

Our efforts focus on the intellectual, ethical and social development of students so they are prepared to find practical and sensible solutions rooted in indigenous and non-indigenous knowledge to address problems facing American Indian nations. The depth and breadth of our curriculum make American Indian Studies a leading academic unit about American Indian matters.

Navajo and O'odham language classes

Led by fluent speakers and skilled educators, our Navajo and O'odham language classes are creating new generations of Indigenous language speakers.