

# INDIGENOUS STUDIES

## What is Indigenous Studies?

The discipline of Indigenous Studies is an interdisciplinary, multi-dimensional field that examines and embodies historical and contemporary worldviews related to the social and political status of Indigenous peoples.

It focuses on millennia of Indigenous experiences in ancestral territories, while also critically examining the societal processes that have had, and continue to have, an effect on the Indigenous peoples of Canada (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) since the time of European colonization.

Indigenous Studies explores a variety of established academic disciplines regarding colonization - as well as engaging in inter-disciplinary studies in the humanities and social sciences - in order to examine and produce traditional and contemporary forms of Indigenous knowledge, to engage with and support work in Indigenous communities, and to undertake culturally-centred approaches to teaching and research.

Indigenous Studies has many opportunities to explore with three main areas of study:

- **Indigenous Studies:** examines the political, historical and societal processes that affect the Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- **Indigenous Languages:** studies the traditional indigenous languages. Minors are offered in Cree and Ojibway.
- **Indigenous Governance:** an interdisciplinary program focusing on the study of traditional knowledge, political governance and Indigenous business and economics.

## What is unique about Indigenous Studies at the UM?

For more than 40 years, the Indigenous Studies Department at the University of Manitoba has been an international leader in the field, committed to creating outstanding research, teaching, and service relating to the historical and contemporary position of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. Offering a wide-ranging undergraduate program and one of four graduate programs in Indigenous Studies in Canada, the Department is the second oldest program in the country and follows an ongoing five-year strategic plan.

The Department offers approximately 25-30 undergraduate courses per semester at four levels from introductory to advanced-level programming in First Nation, Inuit and Metis histories, cultures, social and theoretical issues. Courses highlight areas on Indigenous land, resource and constitutional rights; governance; politics; economic and ecological development; urbanization; identity; contemporary Indigenous literatures; gender; justice issues; post-colonial historiography and criticism. The Department currently offers language courses in Cree, Ojibwe and Michif. Major streams are possible in Cree and Ojibwe languages. The Department has offered several courses that bring together traditional teachers, community members, Elders, students, and professors on campus and in communities, exploring topics of mutual concern and interest. The diversity and themed focus of the Indigenous Governance Stream prepares students for a wide range of future choices and opportunities.

The Elders in Residence program and the resources at Migizii Agamik - Bald Eagle Lodge provide a warm and welcoming community of people committed to helping students to succeed in their studies, and in their life choices.

## Program Options

- B.A. Advanced Major - 4 years
- B.A. Advanced Double Major - 4 years
- B.A. Advanced Major Indigenous Governance Stream - 4 years
- B.A. General Major - 3 years
  - Indigenous Studies
  - Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) Language Focus
  - Cree Language Focus
- Minor
  - Indigenous Studies
  - Indigenous Languages

## Career Opportunities

- Indigenous Community Projects & Initiatives Coordinator
- Community Liaison Officer
- First Nation Housing Consultant
- Indigenous Student Recruitment Officer
- Police Constable/RCMP Officer
- Traditional Community Support Worker