

Common Course Outline
NAST 101
Introduction to Native American Studies
3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

NAST 101 – 3 credits – Introduction to Native American Studies introduces students to key concepts and methods within the interdisciplinary field of Native American Studies. The course examines the past, present, and future of Native American Studies including challenges the discipline has faced, assumptions made about the discipline, and practices employed by the discipline. Particular emphasis will be placed on research methodologies within the discipline and the challenges involved in engaging in ethical research. Additional discussions regarding colonization and decolonization, how Native American Studies programs can work with Native communities to promote solutions to challenges facing those communities, and the importance of promoting accurate awareness of contemporary Native peoples in the United States will be included in this course. This course provides the intellectual framework required for those students interested in continuing in Native American Studies.

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. identify methodologies employed in the discipline of Native American Studies;
2. analyze the development of Native American Studies as a discipline;
3. evaluate the historical and contemporary debates within the discipline of Native American Studies;
4. identify the rationale for having Native American Studies as a discipline;
5. explain the importance of ethical research;
6. identify the challenges facing Native Americans in the U.S. today;
7. evaluate common stereotypes of Native Americans with factual information;
8. distinguish different approaches used in the study of Native American cultures and nations;
9. analyze the complexities of Native American nations;
10. identify biases in both primary and secondary documents; and
11. evaluate the role of electronic media in historical research and analysis.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to Native American Studies as a discipline

- II. History of the discipline
- III. Debates within and outside the discipline
- IV. Methodologies within the discipline
- V. Challenges to the discipline
- VI. The importance of ethical research
- VII. The complexities of Native American communities and nations
- VIII. How Native American Studies can work with Native communities
- IX. Colonization and decolonization
- X. Issues of sovereignty

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. Regular attendance and class participation in discussions/activities.
2. At least two in-class exams/quizzes.
3. Analyzing a variety of primary and secondary texts. This is a writing assignment.
4. In class presentations and/or group work.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments. The course will include at least one significant writing/research assignment or several smaller writing assignments equaling at least a total of five pages. In completing the writing assignment, students will utilize academic sources appropriate to the discipline.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective course in the Native American Studies Program.