

# Introduction to American Indian

[Jump to Today](#) [Edit](#)

## Course Information

Course Prefix/Number: AIS 101

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Fall 2020

Course Title: *Introduction to American*

Class Days/Times: Tuesdays

*Indian Studies*

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Room: *Virtual Classroom*

Phone/Voice Mail: (c) 520.993.3023

(o) 480.590.3447

E-mail: [jsiiki@tocc.edu](mailto:jsiiki@tocc.edu)

Office location: TOCC Phoenix Center

4520 N. Central

Ave., Suite #555

Phoenix, AZ 85012

Office hours: *By appointment only*

## Instructor Information:

Name: Jivik Siiki, MA

**Course Description:** This course introduces the student to American Indian Studies and focuses on providing an awareness of indigenous issues and sovereignty. The main goal of the course is to understand American Indian Studies as an important piece in solving issues in Indian country and to promote awareness of the colonization/decolonization processes affecting indigenous nations. This course examines the challenges facing indigenous nations and people, while encouraging clarification and critical thinking. Also, this course encourages students to understand what it means to live in a culturally diverse world and think about the ways that a more balanced society might be created and developed through a broader definition of cultural differences

## Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Know and understand the historical political relationship between Indigenous peoples in the United States and the U.S. Federal Government.
- Explore and analyze the social, economic, and political impact of the federal trust relationship between Indigenous peoples in the United States and the U.S.

Federal

Government.

- Explore and discuss past and contemporary issues facing Indigenous populations and organizations.

**Educational Outcomes:** From this course, it is hoped students will possess the knowledge and skills to effectively:

- Dispel common misconceptions about the Indigenous peoples in the U.S.
- Research an Indigenous topic and write a research paper on an aspect of Indigenous life or history.
- Demonstrate knowledge and reading and thinking skills through class discussions, written reviews, completing a research paper, and exams.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the course content through group and classroom discussions.

## Course Structure:

The course is lecture format and we will be using many types of learning tools, such as powerpoint presentations, online video, and occasional guest speakers. There will be discussion during the class and students are encouraged to ask questions. Below you will see the grading scale and what is

expected as far as homework, newspaper critiques, the research paper, and the final presentation.

**Texts and Materials:** There is no book required for this class. The instructor will provide copies of readings primarily from the book, "American Indian Politics and the American Political System," by David E. Wilkins (2002). Additional readings for this course include journal articles, and newspaper articles, and will be made available in class or electronically.

### **Evaluation and Grading & Assignments:**

90 and above is an A

80 - 89 is a B

70 - 79 is a C

60 - 69 is a D

Under 60 is Failing

### **Your grade will be determined by the following:**

- **Attendance and Participation (30 points).** You are expected to attend class regularly and be ready to discuss the assigned readings and participate in class discussions and activities. Excessive absences (more than 3) will result in a 3 point deduction per absence (beyond the third absence). Please notify the instructor if you are going to be absent if possible.
- **Homework Assignments, In-class Assignments, and/or \*Quizzes (7 @ 10 points each).** Homework will be assigned in class. You must be present to participate in in-class assignments/activities to receive points. Quizzes may cover readings, lectures, films, and/or class discussions.
- **Newspaper Critique (2 @ 25 points each).** This 1-2 page, double spaced paper is a critique of a newspaper article. Read a newspaper article on an Indigenous topic, include the article citation with the critique.
  - o Critique the article, do not just summarize the article. It is not just what is being said but how it is being said. Relate the article to class content, and react to the article. What is the author's view of the subject? Do you agree/disagree and why? How does the topic relate to our class? What was your reaction to the article?
- **Research Paper (100 points).** This short, 5-8 page double spaced, research paper will cover a topic (with approval from the instructor) that is inspired from class lectures, in-class discussion, and/or

media. This paper may cover a particular issue, topic, tribe or historical event. Full details about this assignment will be presented in class.

· **Final Exam – Presentation (50 points).** Students will do a class presentation about their research findings, and the presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes. Details will be discussed in class.

### **Grading Criteria**

There are a total of 300 points possible for this course:

Participation & Attendance	30
Homework/In-class assignments/ Quizzes (7 @ 10 points each)	70
Newspaper Critique & Reflection (2 @ 25 points each)	50
Research Paper	100
Final Exam (Presentation)	50

### ***Himdag Cultural Component:***

The class is expected to expand your understanding of what the O’odham have experienced since the arrival of the Europeans in terms of the changes that have taken place to our land, our people and our Himdag. It is also hoped this class will encourage you to continue learning and exploring O’odham Himdag to find solutions to our issues, so that you too will become a strong balanced leader for our Hemajkam.

### ***Policies and Expectations:***

**Expectations and Etiquette:** This course is based upon the understanding students are respectful. Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning and show their progress by completing the weekly readings, participating in class discussions, and complete assignments.

· **Cell Phones:** Cell phone use (voice or text messaging) is not allowed in class. Please turn off your

ringer and do not engage in text messaging or instant messaging while in class.

- **Computers:** Use of a computer is allowed in class for note taking only. Other uses including Internet surfing, “Facebook-ing”, instant messaging, etc., will not be tolerated.
- **Personal Responsibility:** It is your responsibility to be aware of due dates, exam dates and times, and assignment guidelines.
- **The Classroom Environment:** I am hoping all students feel comfortable and feel respected in the classroom. Diverse words and opinions should be valued without fear of harassment or intimidation. Discussion that shows well thought out opinions are valued, however individuals who want to create negativity will be not allowed in class.

### **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonestly (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, contact your student advisor.

### **Attendance Policy**

You are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate in each class period. Four unexcused absences may result in withdrawal and a “W” or “Y” will be recorded. You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible (approved by Faculty Senate April 2014).

**Late Assignments:** Assignments submitted after midnight on the due date will be considered late and subject to a 10% decrease for each day the assignment is late. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are experiencing extenuating circumstances that prohibit you from turning in an assignment on time.

**Submitting Your Work:** All assignments shall be provided at the beginning of the class on the due date. Assignments will be emailed to me at [jsiiki@tocc.edu](mailto:jsiiki@tocc.edu).

### **Incomplete Policy**

Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student must be in compliance with the attendance policy.
2. There must be an unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a “C” grade

5. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

### **Instructor Withdrawals**

Students who have missed four consecutive classes (or the equivalent) not submitted any assignments nor taken any quizzes by the 45th day census report, due on October 8, 2020, are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion.

### **Student Withdrawals**

Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by September 15, 2020 if you do not expect to complete the class, otherwise you may receive an "F" grade.

### **Special Withdrawal (Y) Grade**

The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason

### **Reasonable Disability Accommodations (Americans with Disabilities Act):**

TOCC seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to provide an equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to make known to the instructor his or her specific needs in order to determine reasonable accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an Accommodation Plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

### **Title IX**

Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and all staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex- this includes sexual misconduct; harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence and sexual assault.

Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with: Student Services

## **Policies and Expectations**

### **Course Policies:**

- Students are expected to attend each class, arriving on time, except in the case of an excused emergency.
- Students are expected to contact instructor prior to absences, coming late to class or leaving early.
- Unexcused late arrivals or early departures will count against attendance record.
- Class participation and preparation are essential to student success. Students must read textual material, prepare for projects, complete required research as stated on the course schedule.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared for class and having done any preliminary work required as per the course schedule.
- Students are expected to stay in class and work diligently throughout the whole time. Sleeping, frequent/continued exiting from the class during the class period will constitute one (1) absence.
- No cell phone use is allowed during class. Use of cell phones during class, unless permitted by instructor, is a violation of the T-So:son.
- Late work is marked down 10 points for each day of tardiness.
- Failure to submit a project results in a grade of zero (0). An F is a better grade!
- No work accepted after the last class

### **Classroom Behavior**

- Visitors may be only allowed at class sessions or on field trips with instructor approval, visitor's safety and behavior are the responsibly of the student.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.
- Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms at discretion of the instructor.
- Cellphones should be turned off during class, unless the instructor is allowing students to use their tools (calculator, internet access).
- Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or the learning of others will be asked to leave.
- Student behavior is also detailed in student handbook under Student Code of Conduct Violations

### **Make-up policy:**

Late assignments that can be made up will be accepted but will be penalized 25%. Laboratories cannot be made up except in the case of college closure. At the instructor's discretion, extra credit opportunities and optional activities may be provided.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Tohono O'odham Community College, the Student Services Department, and by your instructor. Students may consult the TOCC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, on scholastic ethics and on the grade appeal procedure. Copies are available at Tohono O'odham Community College.

All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must clearly be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited. Copying from a book without proper reference or from a person under any circumstances will result in an “F” for the assignment, and at the instructor’s discretion, possibly an “F” for the course. If you are uncertain about proper citations, ask your instructor or the librarian.

### **Course Feedback:**

All assignments will be graded and returned to the students promptly, typically within a week after the assignment is closed for handing in. E-mail and phone messages will be returned within two days. A student or the instructor may request a student conference at any time during the semester. Quarterly grade reports will be provided to each student, either in person, by email or via the electronic system of Canvas.

## **AIS 101**

### **Fall 2020 Semester**

#### **Course Itinerary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
August 25	<p>Introductions, Syllabus Overview, &amp; Other Information</p> <p>What is American Indian studies? Why is it important?</p> <p>Who is an Indian?</p> <p>Film: <i>Half of Anything</i> (23 minutes)</p> <p>The US Census &amp; Indigenous Peoples</p>	
September 1	<p>Introduction to Colonization</p> <p>Film: <i>After the Mayflower</i></p>	



September 8

Colonization

Colonization

September 15

Decolonization

Sovereignty, Self-Determination, &  
Tribal Government

Film: *Young Lakota*

September 22

Research in Indian

Country and Indigenous

Research Methods

Film: *Blood Journey*

September 29

Treaties & Trust Relationship

Rights: Fishing Hunting and Land

American Indian Policy

Economic Development & Gaming

October 6                      Natural Resources and the  
Environment

Film: *Homeland: Four Portraits of  
Native Action*

October 13                    American Indian Health & Health  
Policy

October 13                    Film: *Bad Sugar*

October 20                    Racism, Discrimination, &  
Stereotypes

Film: *In Whose Honor?*

American Indian Women

October 27                    American Indian Crime and Justice

Short Film: *Expose on the Journal:  
Broken Justice*

November 10                Urban Issues

Religious Freedom, Sacred Sites,  
and Repatriation

November 17

Film: *In light of Reverence*

November 24

Culture and Education

December 1

Indigenous Rights: Struggle and  
Revitalization

December 8

Student Presentations

December 15

Student Presentations







**DISCLAIMER:** This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.



## Course Summary:

**Date**

**Details**

Date	Details	
Tue Sep 1, 2020	 <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20067">Homework 1</a> ( <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20067">https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20067</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 15, 2020	 <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20877">Homework 2</a> ( <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20877">https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20877</a> )	due by 5:59pm
	 <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20064">8.25 Attendance</a> ( <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20064">https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20064</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20905">9.1 Attendance</a> ( <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20905">https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20905</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20904">9.15 Attendance</a> ( <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20904">https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20904</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20906">9.8 Attendance</a> ( <a href="https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20906">https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2114/assignments/20906</a> )	