

MASTER OF ARTS INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES (IS)

Updated May 5, 2021

Note: The department/program code IS replaces the former codes AG & 80. Students cannot hold credit in IS-xxxx and the former AG.xxxx & 80.xxxx having the same course number (e.g., IS-7020(3) and AG-7020(3) or 80.7020(3)).

Graduate Chair & Professor: Dr. Gabriel Nemogá. **Associate Professors:** J. Romanow, S. Shukla, Lorena Fontaine (in leave of absence). **Assistant Professor:** Jerry Fontaine. **Lecturer:** D. Courchene

To be referred to Chair or Faculty, please call 204-786-9305

Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance

The Department of Indigenous Studies is grounded in the intellectual and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the globe. Students from all backgrounds and disciplines develop critical thinking skills through interdisciplinary coursework. The relationship of the Department with Indigenous peoples in Canada and abroad is one of reciprocity and support. The preparation of students includes the introduction of alternative world views involving interrelated themes of land, self-determination, cultural preservation and revitalization, indigenous knowledge and natural resources, historical agency, and representations of Indigenous peoples.

The Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance is a multidisciplinary program grounded in an understanding of Indigenous peoples' values, principles, and philosophies. The approach we foster is one that combines a supportive environment for students of all backgrounds while modeling and fostering the highest standards of excellence inside and outside of the classroom. We recognize and honor the central role of language as carrier of culture, conveyor of tradition and knowledge, and signifier of individual and community identity by requiring the study of an indigenous language, for example, Ojibwe or Cree. An international focus will prepare students to take leadership positions in the private and public sectors, to create and influence policy, to creatively approach development from an indigenous perspective, and to promote the visibility and recognition of sovereign Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada and abroad.

The program's specific objectives are to:

- Provide studies in matters of good governance grounded in indigenous thought and values.
- Provide an in-depth understanding of the human, environmental and financial issues and processes relevant to indigenous self-determination.
- Promote leadership and skills in areas of policy development and professional practice relevant to indigenous governance and public service organizations working with Indigenous peoples.
- Create a new intellectual space to engage indigenous and non-indigenous scholars in the gathering, application and evolution of indigenous knowledge, philosophies, and governance models.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN MA IN INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE

Annual deadline for applications: 1 February. **Applications may be accepted after the deadline; please contact the department**
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is open to university graduates holding a relevant, recognized 4-Year General or Honours Bachelor of Arts degree with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 credit hours of coursework.

A relevant degree may include but is not restricted to the following disciplines: Indigenous/Native/First Nation/American Indian Studies, Environmental Studies, Natural sciences, Political Science, Economics, Law, Anthropology, Sociology, Conflict Resolution Studies, Justice Studies, or History.

Students holding a 3-year undergraduate degree may be admitted to the Master's program upon successful completion of a University of Winnipeg designed pre-Master's program which consists of a set of upper-level undergraduate courses.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete and submit On-Line Application available in Graduate Studies website:
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/graduate-studies/>
2. Submit two official transcripts of academic work completed to date, sent directly from the issuing institution.
3. Submit two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic work.
4. Submit an academic writing sample, preferably a recent peer-reviewed publication or an essay from a recent course.
5. Submit the General Bursary Program Application along with your graduate program application directly to the Office of Graduate Studies, **not** to the Office of Awards and Financial Aid. Up-to-date application form is available in Awards and Financial Aid website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards>
6. Encouraged to submit The University of Winnipeg Graduate Scholarship for Master's Students. Up-to-date application form is available in Internal Awards, Graduate Studies website:
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awds-current-continuing>

English language requirement (where applicable)

Applicants for whom English is not their mother language must show that they have met the English requirement. Please refer to the University of Winnipeg International Office webpage <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/international-engprofqrmts>
The test must be taken within a year of the date a completed application is submitted.

Completed application forms should be submitted to:

Graduate Studies Admissions Office
Graduate Studies Enrolment and Budget Officer
The University of Winnipeg
1BC10A-515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9 Canada
Telephone: 204.786.9309
Fax: 204.774.4134
Email: d.habtemariam@uwinnipeg.ca

CONTACT US

Inquiries may also be directed to:
Crystal Moore
Department Assistant
Department of Indigenous Studies
Telephone: 204.786.9305
Email: cg.moore@uwinnipeg.ca

M.A. DEGREE PROGRAM

Course Work and Graduation Stream

This is a two-year Master of Arts Program that offers the students the choice of completing the degree requirements via three streams. Students can choose to write a thesis, which is defended orally and assessed by a committee. Students may choose to complete a practicum assignment with a relevant Indigenous organization, community or government. Alternatively, students may choose to take a comprehensive examination that includes a written and an oral component. Students are required to take a total of 30 credit hours of work including 21 credit hours of required courses and 3 credit hours of elective courses. The remaining 6 credits are earned through the thesis, the practicum, or the comprehensive examination stream, depending on the stream chosen.

Required Courses

GIS-7021(6) Pathways to Indigenous Wisdom

GIS-7022(6) Indigenous Research Methodologies and Ethics

GIS-7020(3) Indigenous Self Determination

Six credit hours in an Indigenous language* (GIS-1101, GIS-1201, GIS-2101, or GIS-2201)

Three credit hours in an elective course (GIS-7023, GIS-7024, GIS-7025, GIS-7026, GIS-7028, GIS 7703, GIS-7030, GIS-7200)

GIS-7101(6) Master's Thesis

OR

GIS-7102(6) Practicum

OR

GIS-7103(6) Comprehensive Examination

*Indigenous Studies department will accept proof of proficiency or study in another indigenous language to waive language requirement.

Elective Courses**

GIS-7023(3)	Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and Development (experimental course)
GIS-7024(3)	Biocultural Diversity Conservation: Balancing scientific and indigenous knowledge practices.
GIS-7025(3)	Indigenous Language Rights
GIS-7026(3)	Community Food Security: Indigenous and International Perspectives
GIS-7028 (6)	Human and Indigenous Rights in Latin America
GIS 7703 (3)	Indigenous Education in an Era of Globalization
GIS-7030(3/6)	Directed Readings
GIS-7200(3/6)	Seminar in Selected Topics

** Please note that not all elective courses are offered every year. In addition, in consultation with their advisor, students may take relevant courses in other Departments and Master programs. With the approval of the Chair Department Graduate Committee, students could also take graduate course offered in other universities through the Western Dean Agreement.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GIS-1101(6) INTRODUCTORY CREE (Le3, La1) This course is intended for students who are not fluent in Cree and have never taken a course in the language. The emphasis is primarily on oral work for the purpose of learning basic sounds, vocabulary, and grammatical patterns. Structural differences between Cree and English are highlighted.

GIS-1201(6) INTRODUCTORY OJIBWE (Le3, La1) This course is intended for students who are not fluent in Ojibwe and have never taken a course in the language. The emphasis is primarily on oral work for the purpose of learning basic sounds, vocabulary, and grammatical patterns. Structural differences between Ojibwe and English are highlighted.

GIS-7020(3) INDIGENOUS SELF DETERMINATION (Le3) This course brings to the academy a pivotal concept for the present and future of Indigenous peoples. How Indigenous peoples face and deal with colonization, imperialism, and globalization will depend upon the critical understanding and realizations of self-determination. The legal, political, social, and cultural connotations around self-determination for Indigenous peoples are considered. The course is focused not only on theoretical considerations but is designed to bring issues of self-determination into the collective and individuals lives of those who identify themselves with the concerns of Indigenous peoples.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission

RESTRICTIONS: Students who have completed IS-4020 (6) may not enrol in GIS-7020 (6).

CROSS-LISTED: GDP 7717 AND IS 7020

GIS-7021(6) PATHWAYS TO INDIGENOUS WISDOM (Le3)

In this course, students' assumptions and world views are challenged and enriched by a deep and complex understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing. By decolonizing and indigenizing the mind, students are open to imagining and, later, implementing strategies that are embedded in indigenous teachings. The course emphasizes the importance of critical thinking through the examination and immersion into indigenous epistemologies and brings to the program the instructor's expertise in First Nation's governance, development efforts and systems.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission

GIS-7022(6) INDIGENOUS RESEARCH

METHODOLOGIES AND ETHICS(Le3) This course provides a review of the movement towards the decolonization of the Western model of research and the

revitalization of Indigenous research frameworks and methodologies. The course also offers analysis of Western research methods and both their histories in colonial practices as well as their potential usefulness in Indigenous community-based research. The unique issues and principles involving ethical research in Indigenous communities are explored. The course also includes an overview of the governance by Indigenous communities of their own research and ethical review processes.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission

RESTRICTIONS: Students who have completed IS-4022(6) may not enrol in GIS-7022(6).

GIS-7024(3) BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION: BALANCING SCIENTIFIC AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE PRACTICES (Le3)

This course focuses on the interrelationship between indigenous peoples and their environment. Indigenous communities contribute understanding, practices and innovations regarding the use and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in diverse ecosystems. Indigenous knowledge is recognized in international agreements and efforts are made to integrate it into conservation and management programs. The tensions arising from the confluence of indigenous and scientific knowledge, the opposition of different epistemological approaches, the increasing loss of biodiversity and indigenous cultures, the interconnectedness between biological and cultural diversity are the central themes of this course.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission

CROSS-LISTED: IS 4024

GIS-7025: INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE RIGHTS (LE3)

Indigenous languages are an integral part of Indigenous peoples' identity, worldview and culture. It is however currently estimated that up to ninety per cent of the world's Indigenous languages are likely to disappear by the end of the century. This course is designed to provide students with an overview of Indigenous language issues related to culture, advocacy, revitalization, and resistance. Students will be encouraged to critically compare and contrast the treatment of Indigenous languages through legislation, policy, grassroots activism, and educational and systemic efforts in countries such as Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden.

GIS-7026: INDIGENOUS FOOD SECURITY (Le/Se3)

Community food security is gaining wider recognition and importance. The course focuses on a rich diversity of self-organized food systems to improve, maintain and enhance their health, well-being, resilience and ecological

sustainability originated and nurtured by Indigenous and socially-economically under-represented local communities. It also examines Canadian and International case studies and empirical research on Indigenous voices, knowledges and perspectives on their own food systems. This course explores and critically engages students with the concepts, approaches, practices and challenges of Indigenous food production, consumption and distribution and their role in achieving community food security.

GIS-7030(3 or 6) DIRECTED READINGS (D3 or 6) In this course, readings and assignments in the area of Indigenous Governance are arranged between an individual student and the instructor. Topics may not duplicate regular course offerings in Indigenous Studies or other departments. This course is an opportunity to explore a specialized topic in the interdisciplinary context of the field. Examples of potential topics: comparing Canadian and New Zealand/Aotearoa treaty rights efforts; analyzing effects of First Nations provincial and national coalitions on policy at various levels; ethnohistorical research on settler-Indigenous political interactions.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **AND/OR** instructor's permission

GIS-7101(6) MASTER'S THESIS Students choose a research topic in consultation with a Thesis supervisor and write a Thesis paper. Thesis are evaluated by a Thesis Committee and then are presented in an oral defense.

PREREQUISITES: Student in the MA in Indigenous Governance program under the thesis stream

GIS-7102 (6) PRACTICUM INDIGENOUS WORK

PLACEMENT Students are placed with a host organization (an Indigenous organization, a public service organization, or a non-governmental organization, for example) for the purpose of developing research or applied policy skills in the area of Indigenous governance, as broadly understood. The aim of the course is for students to develop experiential learning skills and understandings of community-engaged scholarship and practice. The placement takes place under the terms agreed upon with the student, the Practicum Academic Supervisor, and the practicum host.

PREREQUISITES: Student in the MA in Indigenous Governance program under the practicum stream.

GIS-7103(6) COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The purpose of this course is to assess the student's general knowledge of Indigenous governance theories and practices, their detailed understanding of a specific field within Indigenous governance, and their ability to present and defend material orally. The course includes a written examination and an oral defense component. The written answers and the oral defense are evaluated by a Comprehensive Examination Committee.

PREREQUISITES: Student in the MA in Indigenous Governance program under the comprehensive examination stream.

GIS-7200 (3 or 6) SEMINAR IN SELECTED TOPICS (Le3 or 6)

This course focuses on particular aspects of

Indigenous governance. The selected topic is discussed in seminar format. It may be approached in a variety of ways, including philosophical, ecological, social/cultural, economic, political, or artistically. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission

GIS-7028 (3 or 6) HUMAN AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA (Le 6)

Indigenous nationalities and other marginalized minority groups in Latin America have developed innovative strategies, alliances and forms of political participation to achieve recognition of their rights and to contribute to new political configurations in the region. This course studies the dynamic situation of Indigenous and human rights and social conflicts in Latin America. Topics include contested definitions of individual and collective rights, responses to human rights abuses and intersections between human rights frameworks and related peace-building processes. A country or sub-region may be selected for an in-depth case study, and may vary in different times that the course is offered.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission

CROSS-LISTED: IS 4028 AND HR 4210

GIS 7703 (3) INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION (Se 3)

This course examines various Indigenous learning systems and their adaptations within a global world. As societies become more integrated through globalization, traditional Indigenous learning systems are being challenged as to their viability. In response, Indigenous peoples are adapting their learning systems to meet the challenges that are occurring to the social fabric of their cultures. More generally, this course brings Indigenous perspectives on education to the analysis of globalization.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission.

CROSS-LISTED: GDP 7703

GIS-7023(3) INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT (Le3)

Indigenous peoples today are enmeshed in the expanding modern economy, subject to the pressures of both market and government. More and more indigenous communities are rejecting the traditional capitalist vision of development as human and environmental exploitation and focusing on new types of local development projects. This course analyzes some of the conflicts associated with traditional development projects in indigenous communities Taking indigenous peoples as actors, not victims, as its starting point, the class will then examine innovations in indigenous economic development that are culturally respectful, environmentally responsible and build a new sense of community.

PREREQUISITES: Admittance into MA program **OR** instructor's permission.

CROSS-LISTED: GDP 7716