College of Rural and Community Development
Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development (https://www.uaf.edu/dansrd/)
907-474-6528

RD F100 The University Experience
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Designed to serve as an academic, cultural, and social transition to the UAF campus. Through learner-centered education emphasizing positive self-concept theories, RD F100 will build on personal strengths and skills. Overview of resources and support programs that serve rural and Alaska Native students for a successful transition to college life.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F110 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act: Land Claims in the 21st Century (an)
1 Credit
Offered Fall
Familiarize students with the land claims process and important Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act content, with focus on contemporary situations and explanation of land claims processes ongoing or recently completed in locations outside Alaska.
Cross-listed with ANS F112.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 1 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F113 Alaska Natives, Indigenous Peoples and International Laws (an)
1 Credit
Offered As Demand Warrants
Familiarize students with international law and its importance for Indigenous Peoples. Special emphasis on international legal instruments of importance for Alaska Natives.
Cross-listed with ANS F113.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 1.5 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F114 Alaska Natives, Indigenous Peoples and North American Legal Systems (an)
1 Credit
Offered As Demand Warrants
Familiarize students with domestic law and its effects on Indigenous Peoples’ governance in the United States. Emphasis on Alaska Natives and the relationship between Tribal legal systems and state and federal governments. Examination of how law is made and why Tribal laws differ from those in neighboring jurisdictions.
Cross-listed with ANS F114.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 1.5 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F125 Our Changing Climate: Past, Present, Future (s)
3 Credits
Offered Fall and Spring
Examines how the biophysical impacts of climate change define and intersect with social, ecological, economic, political and cultural dimensions of our lives. Provides a foundation in both Indigenous and Western science perspectives of the causes, impacts and feedbacks of a changing climate. Includes theoretical and project-based experience in climate change.
Prerequisites: Placement in WRTG F111X.
Cross-listed with ACNS F125, HONR F125, NRM F125.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F200X Rural Development in the North (s)
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Examines sustainable community development efforts in Alaska and the circumpolar North. Provides an overview of community development processes and case studies with an emphasis on Indigenous communities and peoples.
Attributes: UAF GER Social Sciences Req
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F225 Applied Communication Skills
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Oral and written communications for rural development practitioners. In this course, students will practice four types of oral and written communications: business presentations and business and technical writing; academic presentations and writing; policy presentations and legal and policy writing; and presenting and writing for community audiences.
Prerequisites: COM F131X or COM F141X; WRTG F111X.
Cross-listed with ANS F225.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F245 Fisheries and Marine Wildlife Development in Rural Alaska (an, s)
3 Credits
Offered As Demand Warrants
Introduction to fisheries development issues in rural Alaska communities, including basic concepts, strategies and contemporary cases. Topics include management of salmon and other fisheries, community development quotas, and sustainable development efforts.
Prerequisites: WRTG F111X.
Cross-listed with ANS F245.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F250 Grant Writing for Community Development
1-3 Credits
Offered As Demand Warrants
Basic elements of grant proposals and processes of preparing proposals for governmental and private funding sources. Emphasis on applied skills through preparation of actual grant proposals.
Prerequisite: WRTG F111X.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 1-3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Pass/Fail Grades
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken unlimited times for up to 3 credits
In this introductory course, students explore key issues relating to climate change and communities across the world and the United States, with special emphasis on Alaska and the Arctic and the unique challenges that climate change poses to Indigenous rural communities.

Prerequisites: WRTG F211X, WRTG F212X, WRTG F213X or WRTG F214X; RD F225; junior standing.

Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0

Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F291 Climate Change and Communities (s)
3 Credits
Offered Fall
In this introductory course, students explore key issues relating to climate change in communities across the world and the United States, with special emphasis on Alaska and the Arctic and the unique challenges that climate change poses to Indigenous rural communities.

Prerequisites: WRTG F111X.

Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0

Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus
RD F352 Rural Business Planning and Proposal Development  
3 Credits  
Offered Spring  
Provides undergraduate students with an understanding of the principles and processes involved in strategic planning, business planning and proposal development with the focus on applications in rural Alaska. Focus is on meeting the unique planning needs of rural Alaska communities and organizations. This course emphasizes business and technical writing.  
Prerequisites: WRTG F111X, RD F225.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F400 Rural Development Internship  
3 Credits  
Offered Summer  
Structured experience in an appropriate agency or corporate setting. Intended to provide students with on-the-job experience to enhance skills acquired via coursework. Approved internship position required and student must discuss internship position with their advisor one full semester in advance of when they intend to take the course.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F401 Cultural Knowledge of Native Elders (an, h)  
3 Credits  
Offered Fall  
Study with prominent Native tradition-bearers in Native philosophies, values and oral traditions. Traditional knowledge elicited through the cultural heritage documentation process. Analysis of existing interactions between cultural traditions and contemporary American life as experienced by Native Elders.  
Prerequisites: F111X, F242X; upper-division standing.  
Cross-listed with ANS F401.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F425 Cultural Resource Issues (s)  
3 Credits  
Offered Fall Even-numbered Years  
An examination of the potential impacts of development projects on cultural systems. Explores data gathering, analytical techniques and use of impact data.  
Prerequisites: Junior standing.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F427 Tribal Contracting and Compacting  
3 Credits  
Offered Fall Even-numbered Years  
Examines the history of federal Indian policy that led to self-determination tribal contracting and compacting. Public Law 93-638 will be studied and analyzed. Challenging issues that hampered tribal contracting will be identified. Case studies involving both tribal organizations and tribal governments will be studied.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F430 Indigenous Economic Development and Entrepreneurship (an)  
3 Credits  
Offered Spring Odd-numbered Years  
An understanding of the principles, strategies and practices of economic development and entrepreneurship with a focus on indigenous Alaska communities. Focus is on those sustainable economics, through culturally appropriate practices.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F435 Participatory Policy-making in Tribal, State and Federal Government  
3 Credits  
Offered Spring Even-numbered Years  
This course analyzes the policy-making and lobbying processes of the American political system, with a focus on the relationship between tribes, U.S. Congress, federal agencies and the U.S. Supreme Court. Uses comparative case studies of national, state of Alaska and tribal issues, policies and laws impacting rural Alaskans.  
Prerequisites: RD F300; senior standing.  
Cross-listed with ANS F435.  
Special Notes: Recommended RD F110.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F450 Managing Rural Projects and Programs  
3 Credits  
Offered Fall  
Examines appropriate management and accountability approaches for community-based programs and projects, particularly those found in rural and/or cross-cultural contexts. This course emphasizes business and technical writing and oral and written communication with community audiences.  
Prerequisites: RD F325; junior standing.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F451 Human Resource Management for Indigenous Communities  
3 Credits  
Offered As Demand Warrants  
Provides an understanding of the principles and processes involved in human resource management especially as they apply within Indigenous communities. Focus is on the relevance of human resource management in every unit, project or team, and on the unique human resource management needs of rural Alaska communities and organizations.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus  

RD F460 Women and Development (s)  
3 Credits  
Offered As Demand Warrants  
Explores interrelationships of gender roles and development in the global economy, emphasizing Alaska and the circumpolar north. Examines the historical marginalization of women, women in indigenous communities, and changing socio-economic and cultural gender roles in community development. Examines women's life histories that illustrate strategies for individual and community empowerment.  
Cross-listed with WGS F460.  
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0  
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus
RD F462 Rural Health and Human Service Systems
3 Credits
Offered As Demand Warrants
Examine U.S. federal and state rural health and human service systems with specific emphasis on the tribal system in Alaska. The history, organization, work force, service delivery and financing of the U.S. and Canadian and Alaska systems are examined. Circumpolar challenges and policy issues in rural health and human service systems are explored.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F465 Community Healing and Wellness (an)
3 Credits
Offered Fall
The history of education and the impact of religion and assimilation policies on the emotional and physical health of Alaska Natives and their communities. Traditional wellness issues and systems will also be researched from a global perspective.
Prerequisite: Junior standing.
Crosslisted with ANS F465.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F468 Human Development and Social Justice
3 Credits
Offered Spring Even-numbered Years
For many communities in the circumpolar North, the ultimate aim of development is to improve the overall quality of life for present and future generations. This course explores how rural communities can, and are, creating positive change in the areas of governance, natural resource management, cultural revitalization, education and health.
Prerequisites: RD F300, RD F325, senior standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F470 The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act: Pre-1971 to Present (an)
3 Credits
Offered Fall Even-numbered Years
Overview and analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. An in-depth examination of the land claims movement of the 1960s and resulting legislative process. Firsthand accounts from Native leaders will be featured. Case studies describing challenges of individual Native villages and regions. Contemporary issues facing ANCSA corporations will be examined.
Prerequisites: Junior standing.
Stacked with RD F670.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F471 Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability in Rural and Indigenous Contexts
3 Credits
Offered Fall Odd-numbered Years
Examination of corporate social responsibility and how CSR plays out in rural Alaska and other Indigenous contexts. Uses comparative case studies of international, national and rural Alaska organizational, economic and societal issues with a special emphasis on transnational corporations, ANCSA corporations, tribal enterprises and other businesses.
Prerequisites: RD F300; senior standing.
Recommended: RD F110.
Stacked with RD F671.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F474 Applied Community Research
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Development and preliminary groundwork for the rural development senior project. Students will develop a full prospectus and conduct preliminary research for their senior project to be completed in RD F475 Rural Development Senior Project.
Prerequisites: RD F340; RD F352; senior standing.
Crosslisted with ANS F474.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F475 Rural Development Senior Project
3 Credits
Offered Spring
Under faculty supervision, the student will complete a major theoretical, research and/or applied project which relates to the student’s applied emphasis area. Students will utilize the appropriate writing and oral communication style for the type of research or project they choose.
Prerequisites: WRTG F211X, WRTG F212X, WRTG F213X or WRTG F214X; RD F474; senior standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F492 Rural Development Seminar
1-3 Credits
Various topics of current interest and importance to the rural development majors. Topics announced prior to each offering. Topics may include: indigenous peoples leadership, legislative process, cultural documentation, National Park Service policies, climate change, and/or co-management of natural resources. Students may take up to three Rural Development seminars on different topics for credit with prior approval. Enrollment priority given to rural development majors.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 1-3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken 3 times for up to 99 credits

RD F492P Rural Development Seminar
1-3 Credits
Lecture + Lab + Other: 0 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Pass/Fail Grades
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken unlimited times for up to 99 credits
RD F600 Indigenous Leadership Symposium
3 Credits
Offered Fall
This course focuses on Indigenous models and perspectives on leadership. The seminar is delivered via a series of teleconferences as well as a weeklong face-to-face intensive. The location of the seminar changes each year. Rural development graduate students can repeat the course once as an elective.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken 1 time for up to 6 credits

RD F601 Political Economy of the Circumpolar North
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Interrelationships among rural communities in the circumpolar North and global socioeconomic, political and ecological systems. Includes major theoretical advances in our understanding of development in the 20th century. Uses a comparative case study approach to understand rapid socioeconomically and cultural change in the north.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F608 Indigenous Knowledge Systems
3 Credits
Offered Fall
A comparative survey and analysis of the epistemological properties, world views and modes of transmission associated with various Indigenous knowledge systems. Emphasis on knowledge systems practiced in Alaska.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Cross-listed with CCS F608; ED F608; ANL F608.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F612 Traditional Ecological Knowledge
3 Credits
Offered Spring
Examines the acquisition and utilization of knowledge associated with long-term inhabitation of particular ecological systems and adaptations that arise from the accumulation of such knowledge. Attention will be given to the contemporary significance of traditional ecological knowledge as a complement to academic fields of study.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Cross-listed with CCS F612.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F625 Community Development Strategies: Principles and Practices
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Provides graduate students with a detailed overview of principles and strategies of community development in rural Alaska and the circumpolar North. Explores how rural communities in diverse cultural, political and economic settings can build on local assets, skills and capacities to improve the lives of Indigenous and other Northern residents.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F625 Economic Development Policy and Entrepreneurship in Rural Alaska: Challenges and Opportunities
3 Credits
Offered Spring Odd-numbered Years
This course explores the questions - what does/should economic development and entrepreneurship look like in rural and Native Alaska? What national, state and tribal policies and laws are desirable, given the history and experience of existing ANCSA corporations (and transnational corporations), tribal enterprises and ANCSA corporations?
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Recommended: RD F625.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F650 Community-based Research Methods
3 Credits
Offered Spring
This graduate course provides students with opportunities for advanced exploration of community-based research principles and practices. Emphasis is placed on developing a thorough understanding of the community research process from conceptualization to implementation and evaluation. It includes skill development of skills applicable to both quantitative and qualitative research.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F651 Management Strategies for Rural Development
3 Credits
Offered Spring Odd-numbered Years
Overview of management and development within Indigenous communities in the Circumpolar North and looks closely at recent strategies such as co-management of renewable resources, land management of Alaska Native corporations, cultural resource management, and the management of Alaska Native tribal governments, corporations and other organizations.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F652 Indigenous Organization Management
3 Credits
Offered Fall Even-numbered Years
Purposes, structure, and methods of management in Northern Indigenous organizations. Management of Alaska Native organizations will be compared with organizations established by Indigenous peoples in other regions of the Circumpolar North. "Indigenous management" will be explored, alongside perceptions of differences between leadership and management in western and indigenous settings.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus
RD F655 Circumpolar Health Issues
3 Credits
Offered Summer Even-numbered Years
Comprehensive overview of major circumpolar health issues affecting Northern residents. Analysis of health and traditional healing practices prior to contact. Examines the emergence of chronic diseases, alcohol abuse and violence, efforts to combine traditional healing practices and Western medicine. Includes environmental health issues, including water, sewer, and food contamination.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F667 Tribal Responses to Violence: Safety, Justice and Advocacy
3 Credits
Offered Fall Odd-numbered Years
This course examines the crisis of violence against Native people and within Native communities. The role of sexual and other violence will be explored, impacts of trauma, legal and jurisdictional barriers and developments in victim-centered and restorative justice. Students will investigate response systems, relevant policies and issues, and develop solutions.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Stacked with ANS F467.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F670 The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act: Pre-1971 to Present
3 Credits
Offered Fall Even-numbered Years
Overview and analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. An in-depth examination of the land claims movement of the 1960s and resulting legislative process. Firsthand accounts from Native leaders will be featured. Case studies describing challenges of individual Native villages and regions. Contemporary issues facing ANCSA corporations will be examined.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
Stacked with RD F470.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F671 Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability in Rural and Indigenous Contexts
3 Credits
Offered Fall Odd-numbered Years
Examination of corporate social responsibility and how CSR plays out in rural Alaska and other Indigenous contexts. Uses comparative case studies of international, national and rural Alaska organizational, economic and societal issues with a special emphasis on transnational corporations, ANCSA corporations, tribal enterprises and other businesses.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Recommended: RD F625.
Stacked with RD F471.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F675 Federal Indian Law: Land, Water and Subsistence
3 Credits
Offered As Demand Warrants
Federal Indian law and its implementation in Alaska; including the Indian Reorganization Act, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Students will explore the political landscape of Alaska and consider the future of subsistence, water rights and how these laws affect natural resource access.
Prerequisites: Graduate standing.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F676 Federal Indian Law in Alaska: Tribal Self-governance - Business, Public Safety Protection of Family,
3 Credits
Offered As Demand Warrants
Examination of the history of federal Indian law and its implementation in Alaska. Key laws including the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), Public Law 83-280, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) and the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) are examined in terms of how they have altered the political landscape in Alaska. Indian legislation is explored to determine how Native communities exercise self-governance in Alaska. Students consider the development of tribal judicial capacity and pressing issues such as public safety for Native communities in Alaska as well as tribal participation in business and contractual agreements.
Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy; permission of student's graduate committee.
Cross-listed with CCS F690; ED F690; ANL F690.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F690 Seminar in Cross-Cultural Studies
3 Credits
Offered Fall
Investigation of current issues in cross-cultural contexts. Opportunity for students to synthesize prior graduate studies and research. Seminar is taken near the terminus of a graduate program.
Prerequisites: Advancement to candidacy; permission of student's graduate committee.
Cross-listed with CCS F690; ED F690; ANL F690.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken 2 times for up to 6 credits

RD F691 Seminar in Rural, Community and Indigenous Development Issues
3 Credits
Offered Spring
Over the semester, students will review key concepts from the core courses in the M.A. program and develop a graduate portfolio illustrating their application in rural development contexts.
Prerequisites: RD F600; RD F601; RD F625; RD F650; RD F651.
Lecture + Lab + Other: 3 + 0 + 0
Grading System: Letter Grades with option of Plus/Minus

RD F698 Non-thesis Research/Project
1-6 Credits
Lecture + Lab + Other: 0 + 0 + 3-9
Grading System: Pass/Fail Grades
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken 98 times for up to unlimited credits
RD F699  Thesis
1-9 Credits
Lecture + Lab + Other: 0 + 0 + 1-9
Grading System: Pass/Fail Grades
Repeatable for Credit: May be taken 98 times for up to unlimited credits