Indigenous Space, Town and Building:
How new housing models based on Native American principles can promote inclusivity and transform our built environments

Oregon’s total Native population exceeds 109,000 people (3% of Oregon’s total population) and they live in all 36 counties. Native peoples have lived in this area from time immemorial, yet are not recognized or treated with enough respect. Native Americans in the U.S. have the highest rate of poverty of any racial group (almost twice the national average). Originally relocated and restrained to reservation land held “in trust” for Indians by the federal government, some regard Native Americans as the highest regulated race in the world.

*Indigenous Space, Town and Building* architectural design studio investigates indigenous notions of the built environment and the natural world, private property, community and making in North America, to explore new ways of planning and designing contemporary housing models. Designs based in these indigenous concepts may hold the key for a new “indigenous” urbanism that is more inclusive and sustainable. Students will study Oregon’s Native communities in their different contexts and propose new housing models for the City of Eugene, its suburbs and rural lands.

Students will study Oregon’s Native communities, its’ history, culture, their land and present conditions to develop housing proposals based on their principles and notions of the land and communality. Students will work individually and collectively to develop a series of proposed housing developments for all three contexts (urban, suburban and rural) responding to their needs and most pressing social problems while promoting social inclusivity and sustainability.