

# What is Creole Studies?

## Connections, Contributions, & Cultural Diversity

Students of Creole culture open up the dynamics of cultural contacts and creativity worldwide. Rooted in the colonial experiences of the Portuguese, Spanish and French in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Unique combinations of African, American Indian, and Asian indigenous cultures with Europeans over 600 years led to new foodways, vibrant music and dance, the arts and language. Students in this course of study can not only come to understand Louisiana, but its neighbors in the West Indies, West Africa, and Latin America. This class explains that colonial experience and discusses its present expression.

### THE CREOLE CULTURE EXPERIENCE CAN BE FOUND IN:

- *Tourism\Hospitality, Hotel Management, Cruise Industry*
- *Art, Language, Music, Folklife, Anthropology*
- *Culinary Arts*

Creole communities exist in several areas of the United States. Louisiana has the Creole capitol of North America, New Orleans, while Rio de Janeiro is the South American Creole capitol. Louisiana has been the source of Creole language and culture across the United States.

We learn about “connections” and cultural diversity... from second line and jazz in New Orleans, to Zydeco in southwest Louisiana. About Creole vs. Cajun culture and their connections, and about the contributions of American Indians, French, Africans and Spanish to the unique Louisiana landscape and culture.

These classes discuss the issues of race and culture, the origin of new languages, art, and music. Diversity is what Creole culture has offered for six centuries. This gives students insights into the cultural processes of innovation and acculturation, conflict and resolution.

Louisiana Creoles have a “fun” definition. Creole is family, religion, work and fun. Celebrations of life.

### Experience the “Fun” of Creole Studies:

- *Dinners, dances (Zydeco to round dances)*
- *Art, architecture and archaeology sessions on Creole language*
- *Field trips and guest lecturers from the Creole community*
- *Internships in the Seychelles in connection with International Studies*

*Celebrations  
of Life*



**NORTHWESTERN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

**Creole Studies has a concentration within the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program and a minor within History.**

*Northwestern State University offers two scholarships for Creole students.*

[www.nsula.edu/creole-heritage-center/](http://www.nsula.edu/creole-heritage-center/)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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