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## Course Outline

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**INSTRUCTOR:** David E N Silas B.Sc.

**E-MAIL:** dsilas@yukonu.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**CLASSROOM:** A2317 / Online (Zoom)

**DATE/TIME:** Wednesdays, 10:30 AM to 11:50 AM

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the foundations of Indigenous governance, with a particular focus on Yukon First Nations. It examines the history and development of governance and administration in Yukon communities, while also engaging with Indigenous governance systems across Turtle Island and beyond. Students will explore how concepts of ethics, accountability, leadership, and public participation intersect with Indigenous worldviews, self-government agreements, and traditional cultural practices. The course highlights practical aspects of governance such as legislation, policy, financial operations, and project management, while also critically examining reconciliation, ethical space, and decolonization in governance.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Students will gain knowledge of Yukon First Nations' history, cultures, and governance systems, strengthening their understanding of the journey toward self-determination. For details, see:

[www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr](http://www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr).

### EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

- AU POLI 311 (3)
- UNBC FNST 1XX (3)
- UVIC IS 200 level (1.5)
- VIU FNAT 1st (3)

- UofA NS 1XX (3)
- UofC INDG 311 (3)
- U Lethbridge MGT 3590 (3) or NAS 3590 (3)

This course is recently re-developed, and its transferability may shift; receiving institutions always determine course transferability. Further information and assistance with transfers may be available from the School of Business and Leadership.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and apply foundational concepts of governance and public administration to Indigenous contexts.
2. Describe the structures and functions of public institutions and bureaucracies.
3. Compare governance in public and private sectors and analyze its application to First Nations governance.
4. Identify legal, ethical, and cultural principles of governance in Indigenous settings.
5. Analyze how political, social, and cultural environments shape governance and decision-making.
6. Critically evaluate governance models through the lenses of reconciliation, ethical space, and Indigenous worldviews.

## COURSE FORMAT

The course will be delivered in a blended format combining in-person classes and online learning through Zoom and Moodle. Students are expected to engage in weekly discussions, complete assigned activities, and submit reflections and projects on time. Participation, respect for Indigenous protocols, and active learning are emphasized.

## ASSESSMENTS & EVALUATION

Group Discussion & Participation	20 %
Governance-in-Action Reflection	10 %
Post-Video Journal	15 %
Video Responses (Padlet)	15 %
Midterm Assignment	15 %
Final Project (Governance Flyer + Presentation)	25 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: Detailed rubrics and instructions will be posted on Moodle.*

## **COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION**

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

## **TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS**

There is no required textbook. All readings and media will be provided online via Moodle. Students must have access to a computer and internet. Yukon University provides free access to Office 365, including Word.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to uphold academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and other forms of misconduct will not be tolerated. Please consult the Yukon University Academic Regulations & Procedures for details.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodation is available for students requiring academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. This accommodation is available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): [LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca](mailto:LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca).

## WEEKLY TOPIC OUTLINE

<i>Module</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<b>Module 1</b> <b>Foundations of Governance</b>	1	Introduction & Course Overview
	2	Traditional Indigenous Governance
	3	What is Governance? Key Concepts
	4	Colonial Frameworks: The Indian Act & Systems Thinking
	5	Body Sovereignty & Parenthood (Individual)
<b>Module 2</b> <b>Indigenous Governance Across Scales</b>	6	Relationships as Governance (Interpersonal/Collective)
	7	Ross River Dena Council (Collective)
	8	Dechinta: Learning on the Land (Family/Collective)
	9	Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow (Collective)
	10	Wet'suwet'en Strong (Clan)
	11	Sovereignty Movement (Collective/Nation)
<b>Module 3</b> <b>Futures of Governance</b>	13	Final Project Preparation
	13	Presentations
	14	Presentations & Closing Circle

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Guest speakers, Elders, and cultural knowledge holders may join selected classes.
- Respect for Indigenous protocols and knowledge systems is required throughout the course.
- Students are encouraged to connect course concepts to their own experiences and communities.