



School of Applied Science and Management
FNGA 101
Governance and Land Claims
Term: Fall 2026
Number of Credits: 3

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Nicole Rondeau
E-MAIL: nrondeau@yukonu.ca
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

CLASSROOM: ZOOM
TIME: Monday 1:00 PM - 2:50 PM
DATES: September 14 – December 7, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the evolution of Indigenous governance and modern treaty making from pan-Canadian perspectives, with a particular focus on Yukon First Nations' experiences. Central themes will examine Indigenous governance inside and outside the modern treaty context; intergovernmental relations; as well as the tensions between Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing, and western bureaucratic processes and perspectives. In addition, course content will explore the historical evolution of Indigenous-government relations across the country by examining case law and the successes and challenges of land-claims implementation. The intent of this course is to honor Indigenous people and how hard they have fought for self-determination and the protection of their lands, languages and cultures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): None

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will need a computer and stable internet connection. A headset with a microphone is also recommended.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

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

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Students who successfully complete this course will have achieved core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. By the end of this course, students will have greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination. For details, please see www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and honor the importance of Indigenous worldviews, values, and legal and political traditions as they form the foundation of Indigenous governance.
- Critically reflect on the history and evolution of treaty making in Canada and the ongoing legacies of colonialism.

- Compare and contrast treaties, land claims and self-government agreements, and assess their impacts

on intergovernmental relations and federalism in Canada.

- Identify and describe how key legal decisions and government policy have impacted Indigenous governance and treaty making in Canada.
- Explore and appreciate the unique context and history of land claims and self-government in Yukon, and how they have transformed communities.
- Examine contemporary issues, including the benefits, controversies and tensions, related to modern treaties, Indigenous governance and self-determination.
- Practice and apply research and writing skills to effectively communicate concepts of Indigenous governance to both general and academic audiences.

COURSE FORMAT

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

This is a blended course with scheduled classroom teaching that uses Zoom to engage with distance students and asynchronous teachings with scheduled deliverables via Yukon University's Learning Management System (Moodle).

Delivery format

Students will be required to attend Zoom sessions on Mondays (1:00 – 2:50 pm) and complete an assortment of asynchronous online activities.

EVALUATION

Participation and/or weekly reading reflections	50%
Research project & presentation	30%
Final exam	20%
Total	100%

Late Assignments

Late penalties will be given on all assignments, except for lateness due to documented medical reasons or if previous arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance of the due date. You will have 5% of your assignment grade deducted per day, for up to 7 days (for a maximum of 35%). In extenuating circumstances, students are expected to communicate their situation and needs to their instructor in a timely manner. The instructor and student will then co-determine alternative deadlines and expectations for completing assignments.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

There is no textbook for this course. All required materials will be available on Moodle.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by

others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are 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.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Week	Topic
1	Introduction and key terms
2	Traditional Indigenous governance & historical treaty context
3	Historical treaty context (cont.)
4	Modern treaty history in Canada
5	Yukon land claims history
6	Land claims agreements (aka: Final agreements)
7	Land claims and land
8	Research paper prep
9	Constitution Act 1982: Section 35 and Right to Self-government
10	Contemporary Indigenous governance
11	Indigenous governance outside of treaties; presentations
12	Land claims implementation; presentations
13	Land claims agreements today; presentations