

 Yukon University	School of Applied Science and Management
	FNGA 207
	Public Policy in Northern and Indigenous Contexts
	Term: Winter 2026 Number of Credits: 3.0
Course Outline	

INSTRUCTOR: Aaron Spitzer
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment
CLASSROOM: Online (Zoom)
EMAIL: aaron.spitzer@yukonu.ca
DATES: January 7 - April 15 (no class March 11)
TIME: Wednesday 9-10:50 am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will introduce you to the study of public policy and the policy process through a Northern and Indigenous lens. The course progresses along three parallel tracks. The first track explores fundamental theories of policymaking and the stages of the policy cycle. The second track studies the evolution of Canadian federal and territorial policies in the North. The third track focuses on Indigenous policy challenges and opportunities in Canada generally and the Yukon specifically.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 100 and one of: HIST 140, FNGA 100, FNGA 101. This is a second-year course and expectations are set accordingly. You are assumed to have taken other university-level courses in addition to the prerequisites. If you do not meet the prerequisites you may be admitted with permission.

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, you will be able to:

- Define public policy and describe its stages of development and how it affects our lives.
- Describe and analyze how ideas, actors and interests inform and shape public policy.
- Explain public policy theory and policy making practice and describe how policy theory and practice apply to Northern and Indigenous contexts.
- Refine policy analysis, research, and writing skills for the purpose of providing clear, sound, and evidence-based advice.
- Develop, express and defend an informed position on a policy issue, demonstrating understanding and application of policy analysis techniques/tools and critical thinking.

COURSE FORMAT

The following is a breakdown of expected work per week within and outside of instructional hours. Of course, the actual weekly time commitment will vary by individual.

- In-class lectures and discussion: **1.83 hours**
- Assigned reading: **6 hours**
- Assigned research & writing: **4 hours**

DELIVERY FORMAT

This course will be delivered online. Class sessions will involve synchronous (real-time) instructor presentations, discussions, student participation, and activities. Outside of class sessions, you will engage in readings and assignments.

EVALUATION

Participation	10 %
Weekly reading reflections	40 %
Research project & presentation	30 %
Final exam	20 %
Total	100%

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All readings will be provided via PDF or link. There is no need to purchase a textbook for this course.

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.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact [Accessibility Services](#) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.