

	School of Applied Science and Management
	Course Code: FNGA 302
	Course Title: Power & Influence
	Term: Fall 2026 Number of Credits: 3
Course Outline	

INSTRUCTOR:	Esentsei Staats Pangowish
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment – virtual
OFFICE LOCATION:	Online via Zoom
CLASSROOM:	Online via Moodle
E-MAIL:	epangowish@yukonu.ca
DATES:	September 3, 2026 – December 4, 2026 (Thursdays 3:30 PM - 5:20 PM)
CRN:	10005

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an overview and understanding of the forces and sources of power and influence within Indigenous social, cultural, and political arenas. Power refers to the structurally determined potential for obtaining preferred outcomes. By using Intersectionality (the theory of how race, class, gender, sexuality intersect) as an analytical tool to capture and engage the contextual dynamics of power, this course will explore traditional and modern views of power and influence within Indigenous Nations. It will draw upon a method of ‘two-eyed’ seeing and utilize guest speakers to explore ideological perspectives and the lived experience of Indigenous Nations today and how decision-makers and policymakers may influence individuals or groups exercising power and influence. Sources of power and influence, personal agency and political ideology such as capitalism, activism, globalization, media and technology, legislation and case law and civil disobedience will be identified, and their impacts explored. Finally, this course will provide an understanding of how individuals, communities, citizenries, and Indigenous nations can build power and influence by using tangible and intangible resources.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

POLI 230 or PHIL 230 or FNGA 240 or COMM 200 and HIST 140. Students who do not meet the specified prerequisites may be admissible 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, students will be able to:

- Define what power and what influence mean in the context of Indigenous governance;
- Recognize, diagnose, and analyze power and power structures considering multiple perspectives and ways of knowing;
- Identify, describe, and critique ideological and theoretical perspectives on political theory and power;
- Describe and analyze the role of power and influence in decision-making;
- Reflect on and propose opportunities for individuals and communities to promote positive organizational and political change through effective and appropriate influence;
- Critically examine the role of power and influence in local, territorial, federal, and Indigenous governments and their impacts on inter-governmental relationships;
- Evaluate the impact of legislation, the Charter of Rights, constitutions, treaties, and case law on power and influence; and
- Acknowledge and reflect on the importance of positionality and intersectionality in analyzing power and influence in personal, community, and political contexts.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be delivered fully online through Zoom and will include instructor-led classes, active participation, individual presentations, and instructor contact hours. Students are expected to attend scheduled Zoom classes and actively participate in course activities and discussions.

Students are encouraged to use the resources provided by the instructor as tools to support their coursework. The instructor will aim to keep the course material interactive, engaging, and varied.

Regular access to the Internet, email, Zoom, and Yukon University's Learning Management System (Moodle) is required for this course. The instructor will communicate with students through email and Moodle. Students are expected to use these online tools and resources regularly throughout the course.

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

The course consists of 2 hours of weekly lectures with additional hours of reading and assignments.

Delivery format

This course will be delivered in a hyflex/blended format. Students will be required to attend some face-to-face sessions on-line/on-campus and complete an assortment of synchronous and asynchronous online activities.

EVALUATION

Kanehsatake:270 years of Resistance Documentary Reflection	5%
Book review 1	15%
Book review 2	15%
Research topic	10%
Research paper	30%
Research presentation	10%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

ASSESSMENTS:

Kanehsatake: 270 years of Resistance Documentary Reflection

On September 17, 2026 students will be using class time to watch the documentary. Students are to write a brief reflection on the documentary focusing on where they see power and influence used during the documentary. Should be 500-700 words. Can use first person. No outside materials are required. Will debrief about the documentary on the following class.

Book (15%) Alfred

Students are asked to write a reflection on as assigned text to the class using academic language and style to support your discussion. There should be 1000-1500 words, reflecting on the topic (4-7 sentences per paragraph). First person may be used, but otherwise all language should be formal. You need to demonstrate true consideration and reflection on the topics. Your paper must be submitted **electronically** to Moodle on **October 8th, 2026**.

Book (15%) Coulthard

Students are asked to write a reflection on as assigned text to the class using academic language and style to support your discussion. There should be 1000-1500 words, reflecting on the topic (4-7 sentences per paragraph). First person may be used, but otherwise all language should be formal. You need to demonstrate true consideration and reflection on the topics. Your paper must be submitted **electronically** to Moodle on **October 29, 2026**.

Research Project (50%)

Students will apply the insights, topics, and theories learned throughout the course to think critically about the different places where Indigenous individuals, groups, communities, and nations have in the past, and can in the present, exercise power and influence. The final project will have students identify a particular case or example where an individual (group, community, or nation) attempted to exercise their power. Students will explain the mechanisms of influence, the type of arena (general assembly, Chief and Council, courts, United Nations, the public sphere, direct action, etc.), the approach used and the outcome. This project will consist of three parts, the topic submission, the research paper and a presentation of research findings.

Topic (10%)

There are lots of possibilities that can be pursued. Feel free to run your idea past the instructor early if you are unsure. Students will be required to submit their proposed topic which includes: 1) The example being explored; 2) The course theory or topics being used; 3) The type of arena; 4) the approach used; and 5) Minimum two sources outside of course materials. **September 17, 2026.**

Paper (30%)

For the research paper students will identify a particular case or example where an individual (group, community, or Nation) attempted to exercise their power. The paper should draw on insights, topics and theories from class to explain the mechanisms of influence, the type of arena (general Assembly, Chief and Council, courts, United Nations, the public sphere, direct action, etc.), the approach used and the outcome. Students will be required to cite a minimum of three (3) academic articles outside of the course readings. (2500 words) **November 19, 2026.**

Presentation (10%)

Students will prepare a 15-minute presentation on their research paper to present in class. The presentation should provide a summary of the example being examined, an explanation of how course topics were used and the outcomes and research findings. Students should be prepared to answer questions from the class. **November 26, 2024 and December 3, 2026.**

Presentations will take place during the last class

Final Exam (15%):

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

1. Alfred, T. (2009). *Peace, power, righteousness: An indigenous manifesto*. 2nd Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
2. Coulthard, G. (2014). *Red skin, white masks*. University of Minnesota Press.
3. Additional required readings will be available on Moodle or online via links provided.

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](mailto:access@yukonu.ca) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Week	Topic
1 – Sept. 3	Course Introduction – Power & Influence
2 – Sept. 10	Legal Power Structures
3 – Sept. 17	Kanehsatake: 270 years of Resistance Documentary Reflection
4 – Sept. 24	Making Space Recognition & Reconciliation
5 – Oct. 1	Governance
6 – Oct. 8	Treaty Relationships
7 – Oct. 22	Globalization
8 – Oct. 29	Self-Determination
9 – Nov 5	Leadership
10 – Nov. 12	Re-empowerment
11 – Nov. 19	Re-empowerment
12 – Nov. 26	Presentations
13 – Dec. 3	Presentations