

School of Academic & Skill Development



HIST 050

History of Yukon First Nations and Self-Government
Winter 2026

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Julie Hawkins	OFFICE HOURS	By appointment
OFFICE	A2304	CLASSROOM	A2313
E-MAIL	jhawkins@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30 pm
TELEPHONE	867-456-8606	CRN	10279

Applied Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, asd@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines Yukon First Nations' history, culture and governance. Topics covered include pre-contact cultures of Yukon, subsistence economies, social and political organizations, cultural expressions, and cultural protocols. First Nations' responses to colonialism, in the context of major contact and post-contact events, are analyzed. Particular emphasis is placed on the history of Yukon land claims and the emergence of First Nations self-governments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

HIST 050 meets the requirements for Yukon University's Yukon First Nations Core Competency.

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of First Nations pre-contact group locations, language and intergroup relations, and why these were important
- Describe traditional kinship systems amongst Yukon First Nations including the importance of extended family members, clan structure, and the valuable role of Elders within communities
- Explain the historical significance of contact and colonialism for Yukon First Nations and the ways in which they have responded over time
- Explain what led to the instigation of land claims by Yukon First Nations and demonstrate an understanding of the negotiating process, the Umbrella Final Agreement, and Self Government Agreements
- Explain why cultural expressions are important to Yukon First Nations with particular reference to oral histories, songs and stories, dancing and drumming, clothing, and the role and use of traditional knowledge
- Explain the significance of cultural protocols and why they are used
- Recognize and appreciate Aboriginal world views and the enduring significance of history, culture, and the land to Yukon First Nations.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

The course will be delivered face-to-face in-person.

Workload

Students can expect to spend at least 3 hrs per week outside of class time completing required readings, videos, and assignments. Weekly reading requirements vary throughout the course; generally, the readings are extensive and academic, requiring careful attention and thoughtful analysis.

EVALUATION

Assignments

Photo Essay

20%

For the photo essay, students are required to:

- Identify a Yukon history topic or theme.
- Provide an introductory paragraph of no less than 150 words describing the topic or theme.
- Include 10 photographs (half from other sources, half taken by you), which are properly cited using APA formatting. These should be displayed in PowerPoint (one photo per slide)
- Provide 1-2 sentence captions for each photo explaining the image and how it connects to your photo essay's theme.

All parts of the assignment will be completed in Microsoft PowerPoint format. The student should read the photo essay marking rubric, so they are aware of assignment expectations. The rubric and a detailed assignment description are available on the Moodle page. You must submit your own original work.

Photo Essay Evaluation

Introductory paragraph	10%
Final Photo Essay Assignment (photos and captions)	10%

Annotated Bibliography

20%

Part 1: Write a paragraph describing a Yukon First Nation topic you have chosen and why you have chosen it.

Part 2: Hand in an annotated bibliography with three sources (one journal article and two open sources from the web). Each source in the list is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph of 2-3 sentences.

Annotated Bibliography Evaluation

Paragraph	10 %
Annotated bibliography	10 %

Weekly Discussion Questions

20%

Each week, students are required to respond to discussion questions posted in the online course discussion thread. Questions will focus on readings, lecture notes, films and/or current events. This is an opportunity for students to share his/her thoughts on the course material with other students. The rubric and assignment description are available on the website. You must submit your own original work.

Midterm Exam Total

30%

A course exam will be written in class and will consist of short answers, definitions, multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions.

Participation Total

10%

Engaged in class participation is an important component of the course. Students are expected to attend all classes, complete their required readings before class, critically analyze materials presented in class, and hand in their assignments on time.

Photo Essay Assignment	20 %
Annotated Bibliography Assignment	20 %
Weekly Discussion Questions	20 %
Midterm Exam	30 %
Participation	10 %
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Readings, videos, and other learning materials will be provided on the course Moodle page.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary; students should familiarize themselves with their program's withdrawal dates. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute to a positive and supportive environment and to conduct themselves responsibly. 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 (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available to students who require them 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 at www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations)

It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

A course syllabus will be presented in class.