

School of Liberal Arts



HIST 140
History of Yukon First Nations and Self-Government
Winter 2025
3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Gillian Staveley	OFFICE HOURS	By Appointment via Zoom
OFFICE	N/A	CLASSROOM	Online
E-MAIL	gstaveley@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Online
TELEPHONE		CRN	20089 / 20092
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course broadly examines Yukon First Nations' history, culture and governance. Topics covered include the pre-contact cultures of Yukon, subsistence economies, social and political organizations, cultural expressions, and cultural protocols. First Nation's responses to colonialism within 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, including the negotiating process, the Umbrella Final Agreement, and Self-Government Agreements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): Pass ENGL 060, or ENGL 12, or equivalent

Cross-listed Courses: HIST 140/NS200

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

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 the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of First Nations pre-contact group locations, language and intergroup relations and why these were important Yukon University
- 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 how 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 worldviews and the enduring significance of history, culture, and the land to Yukon First Nations

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

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered online using various materials, activities, and technical solutions. **You are required to have access to PowerPoint, a camera, and a microphone for assignments.** You will need to visit the course Moodle site to view online video lectures, PowerPoint presentations, films, and supplementary reading-based materials and participate in weekly online discussions. There are no in-person meetings scheduled for this course (asynchronous delivery). While there may be no set meeting times, video or audio conferencing may be used for office hours. The class will proceed on a timetable with set assignments and due dates. This is not a self-paced course.

In this course, our primary focus is to cultivate an equitable, inclusive, and accessible learning community that emphasizes individual critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To ensure a fair and consistent learning experience for all students, **the use of advanced AI tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2 is strictly prohibited for all academic (written/coding/creative/etc.) work, assignments, and assessments in this course.** Each student is expected to complete all tasks without substantive assistance from others, including AI tools.

Any use of AI tool in your academic work may result in academic penalties and be considered an act of cheating and a violation as outlined in the relevant sections of YukonU's academic policies.

Workload

It is expected that this course will require 10-15 hours/per week of homework and additional reading. It is important to note that the time required for successful course completion will vary by individual. Be prepared to read 30-50 pages per week.

EVALUATION

1. Weekly Discussion Entry Total 20%
 Every week students will answer a discussion question(s) posted on the online discussion thread. Questions will focus on readings, lectures, films and/or current events. This is an opportunity for students to share their thoughts on the course material with other students. The rubric and a detailed assignment description can be found on the website. The weekly discussion will be shut down Sunday at midnight. No late responses will be accepted. Please note that you must submit your own original work

10 Discussion Question Entries	Total 20%
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2. Photo Essay Presentation Assignment Total 30%
 For the photo essay presentation, students are required to identify a Yukon history topic or theme. They will provide a narrated (voice and video recorded) PowerPoint presentation that includes an introductory paragraph of no less than 250 words describing the topic or theme, and eight to ten photographs (from digital, analog, and personal sources), which are properly cited. Students will write 100 words minimum 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 presentation marking rubric so they are aware of assignment expectations. The rubric and a detailed assignment description can be found on the course website.

Introductory Paragraph	Total 10%
Final Photo Essay	Total 20%

3. Midterm Assessment Total 20%
 The midterm assessment will occur in week 9. It will assess your knowledge of the course up to that week, including all class readings and recorded lectures. A take-home assessment study guide will be provided to you a week before.

Midterm Assessment	Total 20%
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4. Final Assessment Total 30%
 The final assessment will occur in week 14. It is a cumulative and will assess your knowledge of the course throughout the semester, including all readings and recorded lectures. A take-home study guide will be provided to you a week before.

Final Assessment**Total 30%**

10 Weekly Discussion Entries	20%
Photo Essay Presentation Assignment	30%
Midterm Assessment	20%
Final Assessment	30%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All readings and supplementary materials will be available on the course website.

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, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. 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 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 (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

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.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Theme	Date/Week	Topic	Assignments Due
Theme 1: Precontact	Week 1 Jan 6-12	Setting the Stage for Yukon First Nations History	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 2 Jan 13-19	The Precontact Landscape	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 3 Jan 20-26	Hunting Practices and Traditions	Weekly Discussion Entry Due; Photo Essay Intro Paragraph
	Week 4 Jan 27-Feb 2	Kinship and Cultural Identity	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
Theme 2: Trade Networks and Contact	Week 5 Feb 3-9	Intergroup Trade and Place Names	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 6 Feb 10-16	Yukon Fur Trade	Weekly Discussion Entry Due; Final Photo Essay Due
	Week 7 Feb 17-23	Winter Reading Break	No Assignments Due
Theme 3: Fragmentation	Week 8 Feb 24-Mar 2	Northern Yukon Whaling and Health Epidemics	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 9 Mar 3-9	Mining, Law and Justice in the Yukon	Midterm Assessment; Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 10 Mar 10-16	Yukon Residential School System	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 11 Mar 17-23	The Alaska Highway	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
Theme 4: Towards Self Government	Week 12 Mar 24-30	Resettlement and Resource Development	No Assignments Due
	Week 13 Mar 31 - Apr 6	Land Claims and Self- Government	No Assignments Due
	Week 14 Apr 7-13	Reconciliation and Moving Forward	Final Assessment Due