

School of Liberal Arts



HIST 140
History of Yukon First Nations and Self-Government
Fall 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	
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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.

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%

Each week, students will respond to a discussion question (or set of questions) posted on the online discussion board. These questions are designed to encourage reflection on the week's readings, lectures, films, and relevant current events, while also creating space to share ideas and perspectives with classmates. Discussion entries are due every Sunday by midnight, at which point the thread will close. Late submissions will not be accepted. Students are expected to contribute their own original work. A detailed assignment description and grading rubric are available on Moodle.

10 Discussion Question Entries **Total 20%**

2. Photo Essay Presentation Assignment Total 30%

For this assignment, students will select a Yukon history topic or theme and present their work through a narrated PowerPoint presentation (with both voice and video recording). The presentation will begin with an introductory paragraph outlining the chosen topic, followed by eight to ten photographs drawn from digital, archival, or personal sources. Each photo must be accompanied by a caption in APA style and a written explanation of at least 100 words, describing the image and its connection to the essay's theme. The entire assignment must be submitted in Microsoft PowerPoint format. Students are expected to review the marking rubric and detailed assignment guidelines, both available on Moodle, to ensure they understand the expectations.

Introductory Paragraph **Total 10%**

Final Photo Essay **Total 20%**

3. Midterm Assessment Total 20%

The midterm assessment will take place in Week 9 and will evaluate your understanding of the course material covered up to that point, including all assigned readings and recorded lectures. A take-home study guide will be provided one week in advance to help you prepare.

Midterm Assessment **Total 20%**

4. Final Assessment Total 30%

The final assessment will take place in Week 14 and is cumulative, covering material from the entire semester, including all assigned readings and recorded lectures. A take-home study guide will be provided one week in advance to support your preparation.

Final Assessment **Total 30%**

10 Weekly Discussion Entries	20%
Photo Essay Presentations 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 Sept 3-7	Setting the Stage for Yukon First Nations History	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 2 Sept 8-14	The Precontact Landscape	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 3 Sept 15-21	Hunting Practices and Traditions	Weekly Discussion Entry Due; Photo Essay Intro Paragraph
	Week 4 Sept 22-28	Kinship and Cultural Identity	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
Theme 2: Trade Networks and Contact	Week 5 Sep 29-Oct 5	Intergroup Trade and Place Names	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 6 Oct 6-12	Yukon Fur Trade	Weekly Discussion Entry Due; Photo Essay Due
	Week 7 Oct 13-19	Fall Reading Week	No Assignments Due
Theme 3: Fragmentation	Week 8 Oct 20-26	Northern Yukon Whaling and Health Epidemics	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 9 Oct 27-Nov 2	Mining, Law and Justice in the Yukon	Midterm Assessment; Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 10 Nov 3-9	Yukon Residential School System	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
	Week 11 Nov 10-16	The Alaska Highway	Weekly Discussion Entry Due
Theme 4: Towards Self Government	Week 12 Nov 17-23	Resettlement and Resource Development	No Assignments Due
	Week 13 Nov 24-30	Land Claims and Self-Government	No Assignments Due
	Week 14 Dec 1-7	Reconciliation and Moving Forward	Final Assessment Due