



School of Social Sciences & Humanities

HIST 140

History of Yukon First Nations and Self Government

Winter 2026

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	N/A
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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): One of the following: English 12, EAP 060, ENGL 060 or ENGL 100

Cross-listed Course: HIST 140/NS 200

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

- 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 Indigenous 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 a 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 being 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 online discussions. There are no in-person or online 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.

EVALUATION

The evaluation for this course is split into four different assignments. Please see the information on these assignments below.

Assignments

Weekly Journals / Discussion Entries (1 per week)

Every week students will answer discussion questions posted on the online discussion thread. Responses will be in the form of journal responses or small group discussions in an online forum. Each week will have instructions on what format you will submit that week. 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 discussion will be shut down on the due date at 11:55 pm. No late responses will be accepted. Please note that *you must submit your own original work*.

10 Discussion Question Entries: **Total 20%**

Photo Essay Assignment

For the photo essay presentation, students are required to identify a Yukon history topic or theme. They will provide a narrated (voice-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%**

Midterm Assessment

The midterm assessment will occur in the middle of the semester. 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%**

Final Assessment

The final assessment will occur at the end of the course. 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%**

Assignment	Worth	Due Date
Weekly Discussion Entries	20%	Weekly on Sundays
Photo Essay – Part 1	10%	Friday, Jan 23rd
Midterm Assessment	20%	Friday, Feb 27th
Photo Essay – Part 2	20%	Friday, Mar 20th
Final Assessment	30%	Friday, Apr 10th
Total	100%	

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All readings and supplementary materials will be available on the course website. Students must have access to a desktop computer, laptop or tablet that can run and operate the online Moodle platform. It is recommended that students have access to wired high-speed internet to use Moodle efficiently. No webcam is needed for this online course.

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. **Note that use of generative AI such as ChatGPT is strictly prohibited in this course and may result in a failing grade.**

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	Topic	Assignments Due
Theme 1: Precontact	Week 1 - Jan 6-11	Setting the Stage for Yukon First Nations History	Discussion Post #1 due Jan 11
	Week 2 - Jan 12-18	The Precontact Landscape	Discussion Post #2 due Jan 18
	Week 3 - Jan 19-25	Hunting Practices and Traditions	Photo Essay Part 1 due Jan 23 Discussion Post #3 due Jan 25
	Week 4 - Jan 26-Feb 1	Kinship and Cultural Identity	Discussion Post #4 due Feb 1
Theme 2: Trade Networks and Contact	Week 5 - Feb 2-8	Intergroup Trade and Place Names	Discussion Post #5 due Feb 8
	Week 6 - Feb 9-15	Yukon Fur Trade	Discussion Post #6 due Feb 15
	Week 7 - Feb 16-22	Northern Yukon Whaling and Health Epidemics	Discussion Post #7 due Feb 22
Theme 3: Fragmentation	Week 8 - Feb 23-Mar 1	Mining, Law and Justice in the Yukon	Midterm Assessment due Feb 27 Discussion Post #8 due Mar 1
	Week 9- Mar 2-8	Yukon Residential School System	Discussion Post #9 due Mar 8
	Week 10 Mar 6-16	Winter Reading Break	No assignments due
	Week 11- Mar 16-22	The Alaska Highway	Final Photo Essay due Mar 20 Discussion Post #10 due Mar 22

Theme 4: Towards Self-Government	Week 12 - Mar 23-29	Resettlement and Resource Development	No assignments due
	Week 13 - Mar 30-Apr 5	Land Claims and Self-Government	No assignments due
	Week 14 - Apr 6-12	Reconciliation and Moving Forward	Final Assessment due April 10