

 Yukon University	School of Indigenous Governance
	Course Code NOST 229
	Course Title: Special Topics in Northern Studies: TREATIES
	Term: Fall 2026 Number of Credits: 3
Course Outline	

INSTRUCTOR:	Rebecca Major
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment – virtual
OFFICE LOCATION:	Online via Zoom
CLASSROOM:	Online via Moodle – Zoom & A2317
E-MAIL:	rmajor@yukonu.ca
DATES:	September 1 to December 1, 2026 (Tuesdays 13:00-14:50 pm)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to Indigenous agreements surrounding both relationships and land, while connecting to a modern context. Students will be introduced to the history of treaty-making in Canada and its evolution into modern processes, while critically examining the shifting relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Crown. The course examines the competing interests and strategies for conflict resolution in the context of both historic and contemporary treaties. Students will also be encouraged to apply these findings to Canada, particularly to Northern communities.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at:
<https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the legal relationships and legal land agreements in Canada and identify the different types of treaties with Indigenous peoples in Canada
2. Gather, synthesize and compare different academic literature and policies relating to Crown-Indigenous agreements in Canada.
3. Critically analyze the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the Canadian state.
4. Critically analyze and apply Indigenous land-rights policies and agreements in the context of modern disputes.
5. Articulate how concerns related to the Indigenous land rights and agreements are part of the larger Indigenous-Crown relationship.

COURSE FORMAT

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

There is a regular, scheduled class meeting once a week (3 hours via Zoom). Although all students will complete the same module at the same time, they may log in and complete it at any time during the week. Students will work individually to complete the assessments.

Students are encouraged to use the resources provided in class as tools to support their course work. The instructor will aim to keep the course material interactive and varied.

Email and frequent Internet access are an important part of this course. The instructor will communicate through email and Yukon College's Learning Management System (Moodle). Using online tools and resources is a required part of this course.

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

Research Topic/Thesis	5 %
Annotated Bibliography	10 %
Introduction for Essay	10 %
Essay	30 %
Treaty Briefing	20 %
Treaty Presentation	25 %
Total	100%

ESSAY OUTLINE:

The outline (approximately 2-3 pages) must include: a brief (one paragraph) statement of your thesis/argument, a breakdown of how you plan to construct (structure) the essay (headings/subheadings), a paragraph of how it connects to the course.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

An annotated bibliography with five of the academic sources you will use for the paper listed alongside a brief synopsis of **each** source's main thesis and main contribution to your specific paper. For formatting and writing suggestions see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/590/1/>

INTRODUCTION:

This is the third and final scaffolded assignment toward the construction of your final research papers. Students will write a full introduction to their research papers including a clearly worded thesis statement and a plan of the paper to follow, clearly articulating how the paper will make the argument/case.

ESSAY:

Students will prepare an argumentative essay examining Treaty and land relationships and governance relating to contemporary times, associated with the topics listed in the class. The paper should be 2500 words in length, double-spaced. There should be Chicago-style referencing; include a title page, a bibliography, and page numbers without a name on each page. Each paper must make a clear argument and provide sufficient supporting evidence, following the rules of academic political science essay writing as covered in Charlton and Charlton's *The Nelson Guide to Research and Writing in Political Science*. Each paper must include at least eight pieces of academic/peer reviewed research. *Additional internet sources (ie newspaper stories, statistical data, etc.) can be used since these are current issues, BUT you cannot write a passable paper using these sources alone.* Your paper must be submitted electronically.

TREATY BRIEFING:

Your Treaty brief on an agreement of your choosing. You should refer to appropriate public policy issues, and literature to demonstrate your knowledge of concepts covered in the course. Each student will be required to write a 2-3-page decision-style briefing for a minister or senior official on a contemporary policy issue related to the identified Treaty. Briefing notes will be assessed on the basis of organization of information, quality of research, writing and style, and the relationship between the facts provided and the recommendation made. For formatting and writing suggestions see:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/590/1/>

TREATY PRESENTATION:

Each student will be responsible for one Treaty presentation for the term. This will include a PowerPoint presentation that provides a synopsis of the agreement, including the parties involved, and current issues or relationship directions associated with the Treaty presented. The presentation should also incorporate a minimum three (3) questions for class discussion.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All material is available in Moodle.

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

www.yukonu.ca

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	Course Overview, Historic and Pre-Contact Relationships
2	Peace and Friendship
3	Peace and Neutrality
4	First 'land surrenders'
5	Numbered Treaties
6	Numbered Treaties
7	NRTA
8	Comprehensive Claims
9	Comprehensive Claims
10	Specific Claims
11	Specific Claims
12	UNDRIP/DTC
13	Review