



School of Applied Science and Management  
Course Code POLI 330  
Course Title: Indigenous Politics in Canada  
Term: Winter 2025  
Number of Credits: 3

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## Course Outline

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Rebecca Major  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays @ 9:00 AM or by appointment  
**OFFICE LOCATION:** F2F & Online via Zoom  
**CLASSROOM:** A2317 Online via Moodle    **E-MAIL:** [rmajor@yukonu.ca](mailto:rmajor@yukonu.ca)  
**DATES:** January 8 to April 16, 2026 (Thursdays 10:00 am -11:50 am)

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the challenges and opportunities facing Indigenous Peoples in Canada today. It focuses on colonialism, capitalism, and globalization. How are Indigenous Peoples responding to challenges to and opportunities for self-determination at individual, collective, government, and Nation levels? What does activism, cultural revitalization, resurgence and reconciliation look like in the face of continued colonialism? This course puts an emphasis on issues affecting Indigenous bodies, lands, languages, cultures, and governance in Canada. Students will be asked to link broader themes to issues in the North, particularly as they relate to modern governance and self-determination.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): POLI 240 and one of PHIL 230 or FNGL 240

### EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

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

### 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](http://www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- explain Indigenous Peoples' responses to capitalism, globalization, and continued colonialism;

- discuss differing ways of practicing decolonization through direct action; community-, culture-, language-, and land-based initiatives; cultural revitalization; solidarity initiatives; legislation; reconciliation and relationship-building at individual, collective and Nation levels;
- evaluate Indigenous and state-informed governance practices in the Yukon and Canada/US/International contexts; and
- explain how positionality informs their relationships to Indigenous Politics in Canada.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

There is a regular, scheduled class meeting once a week (3 hours via Zoom). Although, all students will complete the same module of work at the same time, they may log-in and complete the work 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.

## **Weekly breakdown of instructional hours**

The course consists of 3 hours of weekly lectures with additional hours of reading and assignments.

## **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**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Participation/Attendance  | 10%         |
| Weekly Journals (10 x 3%) | 30%         |
| Seminar Presentation      | 15%         |
| Research Topic            | 5%          |
| Research paper            | 20%         |
| Final Exam                | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>100%</b> |

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Late penalties will be applied except for lateness caused by documented medical reasons or if previous arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance of the due date. There are no exceptions.

- Weekly Journals are due BEFORE class, these will not be accepted after this time without a documented medical reason.
- There is no extension permitted for the final exam.
- For all other assignments and penalties are as follows: 1 day 5%; 2-4 days 15%; and 5-7 days 25%. Assignments are not accepted after 7 days except for documented medical reasons.

## ASSESSMENTS:

### Assignments

**Weekly Journal (10 x 3%):** Students will produce ten (10) journals throughout the term worth 3% each. Each journal will focus on weekly readings and will require student to read the assignment readings and organize their thoughts and responses. The journal reflections will require students to link the weekly readings to things they see and experience in their community. Students are encouraged to incorporate pictures, graphs, or drawings into their journal entries to express their thoughts and identify key concepts or arguments in the readings. The journals will be graded based on thoughtfulness of reflections and the link to course material to real life events (250-500 words each). The 10 selected weekly reflections are due at the beginning of the class material that the journal responds and will be discussed in class.

**Seminar Presentation (15%):** Each student will be responsible for one seminar presentation for the term. This will include a PowerPoint presentation that presents a synopsis of the readings, including key terms, arguments, and topics discussed in the literature. The presentation should also incorporate key critiques and minimum three (3) questions for class discussion. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the course page after the first class.

**Research Topic (5%) & Research Paper (20%):** There are many possibilities for a theme or topic for a research paper. Students are required to submit their proposed topic including 1-2 sentences explaining the proposed argument and a minimum of two sources outside the course material.

The research paper will draw on insights and topics from the course materials and discussions to explore a current event or issue. The paper should introduce the current event, the related course topic, and a clear and concise argument. Students will be required to cite a minimum of three (3) academic articles outside the course readings. (2000-2500 words)

**Final Exam (20%):** The final exam is a take home exam, available from the last class. Students will be assessed on their comprehension of key concepts, themes, and over-arching arguments addressed in the lectures and course readings (cumulative). The exam will consist of two discussion questions that ask the students to compare and contrast course content and/or 3-4 of the readings from the syllabus.

## 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.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation 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). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): [LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca](mailto:LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca).

## TOPIC OUTLINE

| Week | Topic   |
|------|---|
| 1    | Course Overview, Political Theory: Comparative Political Theory (Jan. 8)            |
| 2    | Political Theory: Culture & Identity (Jan. 15)                                      |
| 3    | Political Theory: Social & Political Thought, Rationalism (Jan. 22)                 |
| 4    | Recognition & Reconciliation: Decolonization (Jan. 29)                              |
| 5    | Recognition & Reconciliation: Culture, Language and Land based initiatives (Feb. 5) |
| 6    | Recognition & Reconciliation: MMIWG (Feb. 12)                                       |
| 7    | Recognition & Reconciliation: Resurgence & Relationship Building (Feb. 26)          |
| 8    | Internationalism & Globalization (Mar. 5)   |
| 9    | Internationalism: UNDRIP & International Law (Mar. 12)                              |
| 10   | Governance: Federalism (Mar. 19)  |
| 11   | Governance: Indigenous Governance & Nation Building (Mar. 26)                       |
| 12   | Governance: Citizenship & Self-Determination, Resource Governance (Apr. 2)          |
| 13   | Governance: Multi-Level & Co-Management Governance (Apr. 9)                         |