



School of  
**FNGA 101**  
**Indigenous Governance and Modern Treaty Making in Canada**  
Term: Fall 2021  
Number of Credits: 3

---

## Course Outline

---

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jen Jones PhD

**E-MAIL:** [jjones@yukonu.ca](mailto:jjones@yukonu.ca)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 10:30 AM – 11:30 Am via  
Zoom

**CLASSROOM:** A2204

**TIME:** Wednesdays 10:30 – 12 Pm

**DATES:** September 6 - December 12, 2021

---

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the evolution of Indigenous governance and modern treaty making from pan-Canadian perspectives, and with a particular focus on Yukon First Nations' experiences. Central themes will examine Indigenous governance inside and outside of the modern treaty context; intergovernmental relations; as well as the tensions between Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing, and western bureaucratic processes and perspectives. In addition, course content will explore the historical evolution of Indigenous-government relations across the country by examining case law and the successes and challenges of land claims implementation. The intent of this course is to honour and recognize how far Indigenous people have come and how hard they have fought for self-determination, and protection of their lands, languages and cultures.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): None

### 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:

- Recognize and honour the importance of Indigenous worldviews, values, and legal and political traditions as they form the foundation of Indigenous governance.

- Critically reflect on the history and evolution of treaty making in Canada and the ongoing legacies of colonialism.
- Compare and contrast treaties, land claims and self-government agreements, and assess their impacts on intergovernmental relations and federalism in Canada.
- Identify and describe how key legal decisions and government policy have impacted Indigenous governance and treaty making in Canada.
- Explore and appreciate the unique context and history of land claims and self-government in Yukon, and how they have transformed communities.
- Examine contemporary issues, including the benefits, controversies and tensions, related to modern treaties, Indigenous governance and self-determination.
- Practice and apply research and writing skills to effectively communicate concepts of Indigenous governance to both general and academic audiences.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

### **Weekly breakdown of instructional hours**

This is a blended course with scheduled classroom teaching that uses Zoom to engage with distance students and asynchronous teachings with scheduled deliverables via Yukon University's Learning Management System (Moodle).

### **Delivery format**

Students will be required to attend some face-to-face sessions on-campus, Wednesdays 10:30 – 12 pm, and complete an assortment of asynchronous online activities.

## **EVALUATION**

Classroom and online activities/contributions	25%
Journals	30%
Modern Treaty FAQ Handout	20%
Final Research Paper	25%
Total	100%

### **Classroom and online activities/contributions (25%)**

Students will participate in two short quizzes consisting of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer (one- or two-word answers). Each quiz will be worth 5%. Students will be assessed on their engagement with the material, others in the class, and in their classroom participation. A self-assessment tool will be administered three times over the duration of the course (total 15%). The total of all quiz and activities (online) and contributions (in class) will make up 25% of the final course grade. More details on the quizzes and video discussions, including dates, will be provided in Moodle.

## **Journals (30%)**

Using a set of broad prompts provided in Moodle, students will be required to complete 8 journal entries throughout the 13-week semester. The course is broken up into 4 modules:

- Module 1: Wk 1
- Module 2: Wks 2-5
- Module 3: Wks 6-10
- Module 4: Wks 11-13

For Modules 2-4, you must complete a min. of 2 journal entries per module but students can choose which weeks to complete them. By the end of the course, students must have completed 8 entries in total. The journals will only be read by you and the instructor.

The journals will be assessed half-way through the semester and again at the end of the course. A total of 15% of your grade for the journals will be self-assessed and the other 15% will be assessed by the instructor. More details will be provided in Moodle.

## **Modern Treaty FAQ Handout (20%)**

For this assignment, students will compile a 2-3 page handout of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about one of the modern treaties signed in Canada. These handouts are intended to be accessible to the public so they should use clear language and visuals.

Each student will submit their own unique FAQ handout, BUT the research will be done in small groups of 3-4 people. Each group will be assigned a specific land claims agreement to focus on.

You will submit two drafts of your FAQ: a rough draft of the written content will be submitted for feedback from the instructor (worth 10%) and then a final draft will be submitted (worth 10%). As these are intended to be shared, the FAQs will be distributed to your fellow classmates after they have been submitted for grading, so you can learn from each other about the different agreements.

## **Final Research Paper (25%)**

Students will submit a final research paper on a topic of their choice. Topics must be approved by the instructor in advance. Students may choose a topic from one of the weekly themes or any other topic related to Indigenous governance and modern treaty making in Canada. Please ensure that you select a topic that is focused and not too broad.

This assignment is broken into two parts for a total of 30% of your final mark. Part 1 includes a thesis statement, outline and bibliography containing a min. of 5 citations (worth 5%). Part 2 is a traditional academic research paper (worth 20%). The research paper must be a minimum of 1200 words and no more than 1600 words (excluding your title page and bibliography). Anything outside of the word limit will be docked marks. Detailed instructions will be provided on the course Moodle page. Students should read the research paper instructions and grading rubric carefully, so they are aware of the expectations.

## **Late Assignments**

Late penalties will be given on all assignments, except for lateness due to documented medical reasons or if previous arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance of the due date. You will have 5% of your assignment grade deducted per day, for up to 7 days (for a maximum of 35%). In extenuating circumstances, students are expected to communicate their situation and needs to their instructor in a timely manner. The instructor and student will then co-determine alternative deadlines and expectations for completing assignments.

### **COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION**

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

### **TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS**

There is no textbook for this course. All required materials will be available on 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.

### **TOPIC OUTLINE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>1</b>	Opening circle, introduction, and key terms
<b>2</b>	Traditional Indigenous governance & historical treaty context
<b>3</b>	Historical treaty context (cont.)

- 4** | Modern treaty history in Canada
- 5** | Yukon land claims history
- 6** | Land claims agreements (aka: Final agreements)
- 7** | Land claims and land
- 8** | Research paper prep
- 9** | Constitution Act 1982: Section 35 and Right to Self-government
- 10** | Contemporary Indigenous governance
- 11** | Indigenous governance outside of treaties
- 12** | Land claims implementation and dispute resolution
- 13** | Land claims agreements today and closing circle