

Course Syllabus - Political Science/Indigenous Learning 3351:Aboriginal Peoples and the Law

Instructor and Contact Information

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Course Description

This course is an examination of the unique legal position of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada with particular emphasis on the political, economic and social impact of the law. Topics to be dealt with include: International Law and indigenous people, Aboriginal identity in Canada, the nature of aboriginal title, the scope of aboriginal rights, land claim negotiations (specific and comprehensive land claims), self-government, constitutional developments, contemporary political and social issues.

The shape and purpose of the course is to encourage students to understand that the readings will be done first and the Powerpoints and the accompanying mini-lectures will provide interpretations of the readings. The Videos and Films in each Module are meant to reinforce the general subject of the Modules and will be useful for students when preparing their Research Paper, Legal Issue Study and notes for the Final Examination. The Profiles are meant to inspire, and to expand the students' understanding of the readings because they are all connected in a formal and informal way to the issues covered by the text.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Analyze complex theoretical text with regard to Aboriginal Peoples living in Canada.
- Synthesize legal issues pertaining to Aboriginal Peoples living in Canada.
- Enhance communication and comprehension skills by discussing, analysing and presenting information online.
- Discuss leadership and citizenship in Canada regarding Aboriginal-Canadian relations.
- Recognize the complexities of the legal, social, economic and political issues animating the negotiations between Aboriginal Peoples and Canada.

Required Text and Learning Materials

Cannon, Martin and Lina Sunseri, eds. *Racism, Colonialism and Indigeneity in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford, 2011.

In addition to the textbook, a few readings are from electronic journals. Links to these articles are embedded within the applicable modules.

Grading

- PARTICIPATION.....20%
- LEGAL ISSUE STUDY.....20% (due by last day)
- RESEARCH PAPER.....30% (due February 28th)
- FINAL EXAMINATION..... 30% (TBA)

Participation

20% - Each student will be required to answer at least TWO of the Discussion Questions that are posted at the end of each Module's reading assignment overview. Responses should be approximately one long paragraph (6 -8 lines) and are to be posted to the appropriate Discussion forums no later than midnight on the day before the open discussion period for each Module. The open discussion periods will be used to answer questions, clarify content, and reflect on Module content and will be open for 24 hours. Students will receive feedback from the Instructor with regard to their answers.

Module	Discussion Question Responses Due	Question Period
One	January 18	January 19
Two	February 1	February 2
Three	February 15	February 16
Four	March 8	March 9
Five	March 22	March 23
Six	April 3	April 4

Legal Issue Study (due last day of term)

There will be one legal issue assigned as reading for each Module of the course. Each student will provide a 4 page synopsis of **ONE** issue of their own choice. The synopsis must include:

- A brief overview of the case or cases involved
- An examination of the principle of law that pertains to the issue
- An opinion about how the issue changes the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada
- **Submit completed synopsis through the appropriate [Assignment Dropbox](#).**

Research Paper (due February 28)

- Each student is responsible for completing a 5-7 page ([APA style](#), 12 point font) research paper that is cleared with the Instructor. Send your topic choice by email to the Instructor by **January 17th**. The Instructor expects students to use at least 10 sources for the

completion of this paper. Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course and any papers that are received after the due date will be graded down by one mark out of 30 per day late.

- Read the university regulation on [plagiarism](#). [link will open in a new browser window]
- **Submit the research paper through the appropriate [Assignment Dropbox](#).**

Final Examination (On-line - 2 hours)

The final examination will be based on the assigned readings for the entire course and will consist of two parts:

- Identifications - each will require a short 5 line paragraph
- Essay questions - there will be a choice of 2 out of 4

Course Schedule

The course is divided into 6 Modules which correspond to the required text. A Module will be released every two weeks and will also contain a PowerPoint and a legal case that pertains to the Module. Modules will be released according to the following Schedule:

January 6 - Module 1 - Theorizing the Colonial Context

January 20 - Module 2 - Racism, Sexism, Settler-ism and the Law in Canada

February 3 - Module 3 - Colonization, Decolonization, and the Deconstruction of Race, Territoriality and Identity

February 17 -STUDY WEEK FEB. 18- 21

February 24 - Module 4 - Indigeneity and Family: Apologies for Displacement

March 10 - Module 5 - Rights, Citizenship and Nationalism: Education as Empowerment

March 24 - Module 6 - Indigenous Community Development: Economics as Empowerment

How to Make Your Way Through the Course

The Navigation bar (teal coloured menu bar visible from the course homepage) groups all of the course tools under functional categories. For example, under **Content**, you'll find all of the course content files; under **Assessments** you'll find the Dropbox link; under **Collaborate** you'll find links to the discussion forums, e-mail, and the chat tool. The **Important Information** link is where you'll find links to Desire2Learn support resources and university services. Where appropriate, quick links to some of these tools may appear in content files. Click the "Next" and "Previous" buttons that appear on the right of the screen to easily cycle through content pages. Click on the course title at the top of the screen to return to the course homepage.

Support materials for Desire2Learn (D2L), including how to navigate and use course tools, how to set up subscriptions and notifications to keep you updated on course activities, and much more are found under the

Important Information link on the navigation bar (accessible from the course homepage). Also found under the **Important Information** link are links to student services provided by the university.

Course announcements and updates throughout the term will be posted under the **News** widget on the course homepage.