

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2025

NT2300(A2): Introduction to Indigenous Governance - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dani Pierson **PHONE:** 780-539-2889
OFFICE: C303 **E-MAIL:** DPierson@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-3:00 PM

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Introduction to indigenous governance and resurgence through contemporary perspectives on the political relationship between Indigenous people and the state in Canada.

PREREQUISITE(S):
None

COREQUISITE(S):
None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
None; all required texts will be available on our myClass course page.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Examine the required readings and videos for each week and learn to expand their insights and also challenge perspectives on contemporary Indigenous political relationships and organizations

- Recognize the various local, provincial and national organizations that represent Indigenous peoples
- Identify a complex array of factors that influence the governance contexts of Indigenous nations and representative organizations
- Apply critical analysis of the impact of colonialism on Indigenous leadership and also its effect on the governance in communities and organizations
- Demonstrate critical thinking through the comparison of key concepts in Indigenous governance such as nationhood, self-determination, sustainable self-determination, self-conscious traditionalism, leadership, sovereignty, self-government, assimilation, and co-optation
- Identify various Indigenous responses to colonial domination through the movements for sustaining self-determination and regeneration of ceremonial life
- Distinguish the various Indigenous political traditions and engage with teachings from across these traditions to articulate how they are re-envisioning Indigenous nationhood

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Participation - 20%

Reading Annotations - 20% (*due every Tuesday at 3PM*)

Reflection Papers - 20% (*due September 26 and Dec 12*)

Course Project - 40% (*proposal 10% due October 24; project 30% due November 21*)

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Topic	Assignments
W1: Sept 2-5	Course Introduction	
W2: Sept 8-12	Wahkohtowin - Cree Law	
W3: Sept 15-19	Dene Law	
W4: Sept 22-26	Crown-Indigenous Relations: The Indian Act	Reflection Paper #1 DUE September 26 at 5 PM
W5: Sept 29-Oct 3	Crown-Indigenous Relations: Band Council Systems	
W6: Oct 6-10	Crown-Indigenous Relations: Treaty-Making Across Canada	
W7: Oct 13-17	Treaty 8: Origins and History	
W8: Oct 20 - 24	Treaty 8: Contemporary Relations and Realities	Course Project Proposal DUE October 24 at 5 PM
W9: Oct 27-31	Metis Governance and Provincial Organizations	
W10: Nov	Metis Settlements in Alberta	

3-7		
W11: Nov 10-14	FALL BREAK	
W12: Nov 18-21	Community-Led Governance: Self-Government Agreements	Course Project DUE Nov 21 at 5 PM
W13: Nov 24-28	Community-Led Governance: Community Resistance	
W14: Dec 1-5	Indigenous Governance and Current Events	
W15: Dec 8-12	Course Reflections	Reflection Paper #2 DUE Dec 12 at 5 PM

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Assigned readings and course content should be completed before attending class. Attendance at all classes is required and is necessary for student success in this course. Please notify the instructor immediately in case of illness or emergency.

If you are experiencing challenges in this course or facing barriers to completing readings and assignments, please contact your instructor immediately for assistance.

It is expected that students maintain a professional demeanor during class and in communications pertaining to the course.

Additionally, use of generative AI in lieu of completing written assignments is strictly prohibited and will result in an automatic fail in assignments.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Assignment descriptions will be discussed in class and will be available on the myClass page.
2. All readings will be available on the myClass page.