UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH | Department of Political Science

POLS*3340: Indigenous Politics in Canada

Credit Weighting: 0.5 **Pre-/Co-Requisites:** **Restrictions:**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

This survey course examines the evolving relationship between the Canadian state and Indigenous peoples by analyzing the interplay between key historical and contemporary legal, political, and policy developments. For example, we will explore how the history of treaties, colonialism, and assimilation explains current demands for Indigenous self-determination, treaty negotiations, and land back movements. The course will also address pressing contemporary socio-political topics and policy challenges like Indigenous feminism and gender equality, continued resource extraction on Indigenous traditional territory, and the complex relationship between Indigenous resurgence movements and state-led reconciliation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The central objective for the course will be to analyze and evaluate how law, politics, and public policies shape Indigenous-state relations over time by engaging respectfully with Indigenous and Canadian political thought and worldviews.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

In-class participation
Personal reflection journal
In-class midterm
Policy research
In-person final Exam
*assessments are subject to change

REQUIRED READING

Thierry Rodon and Hélène Boivin, Indigenous Policies in Canada: Contradictions, Failures, and Challenges. Canadian Scholars, 2026.
Additional required texts can be electronically accessed through the University library or uploaded on CourseLink.