Indigenous Content Syllabus Materials
A Resource for Political Science Instructors in Canada

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Introduction

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and leading scholarship all make clear, educational institutions, including universities, have played a major role in the perpetuation of colonialism in Canada. The Reconciliation Committee of the Canadian Political Science Association encourages all educators, and especially political scientists, to incorporate the materials from this list into their syllabi, graduate reading lists, and research agendas, as part of a broader effort to reflect upon, and challenge, the role that education has played in the genocides of Indigenous Peoples.

The materials included here are intended to counter the weight of political science’s and cognate disciplines’ scholarship on Indigenous matters, so as to privilege a liberatory, critical race, post- and anti-colonial, and/or an Indigenous feminist theoretical framework; to privilege Indigenous-led scholarship that fits with that framework or that addresses the experience and consequences of the colonial experience. The objective is to construct a curated list amenable to revision, and directed at assisting the professoriate to improve its understanding, teaching, research and supervision by developing competence on these matters and be able to more carefully engage the political science canon; and to assist student scholars to develop similar competence and comfort with these materials and this approach as they proceed in their own careers.

This is the third update, and the first major revision to this syllabus. A further update will incorporate French-language sources into the revised structure. The resource is now organized into three sections. The first section provides an overview of some major works. It also includes links to existing, overlapping syllabi resources.

The division between the second and third sections is conceptual. In law, it is now customary to distinguish between Aboriginal Law—a field of Canadian law—and Indigenous law—the legal frameworks through which Indigenous peoples organize themselves. In a similar way, this syllabus draws a soft distinction between the study of Canadian-Indigenous politics and Indigenous politics “in” Canada. The former concerns Indigenous peoples’ relationship to the institutions of the Canadian state, and is surveyed in Part Two. The latter names an autonomous, global field of inquiry into the ways Indigenous peoples govern themselves and seek just and liberated futures. It is the focus of Part Three.

Materials which are especially accessible (e.g., appropriate for lower-level undergraduates or other audiences with little prior familiarity) are indicated by an asterix. In some cases, texts that are key to conversations across different themes are repeated on the list.

This work is necessarily a work in progress. As work continues to be published or drawn to our attention, this resource will be periodically updated.
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PART ONE: Other Syllabi - Major Works

This section presents an overview of some major works and includes links to existing, overlapping syllabi resources.

Other Syllabi

Canadian Historical Association. A Syllabus for History After the TRC. 2018.

https://nycstandswithstandingrock.wordpress.com/standingrocksyllabus/


Landmark Reports


Reports of the TRCC.
https://nctr.ca/records/reports/#trc-reports

Major Works (paradigm-setting works on Indigenous politics in “Canada,” by Indigenous authors)


Major Edited Volumes


* Ladner, Kiera L., and Leanne. Simpson, eds. This Is an Honour Song: Twenty Years since the Blockades, an Anthology of Writings on the “Oka Crisis.” Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Pub., 2010.


PART TWO: Canadian-Indigenous Politics

This section highlights some important scholarship on the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the major institutions of the Canadian state, with a strong focus on Indigenous authors and on decolonial and liberatory approaches.

The Canadian Constitution and Canadian Law


Criminal Law, the Police, and the Carceral System


Federalism


Green, Joyce. “Self-determination, Citizenship, and Federalism: Indigenous and Canadian Palimpsest.” In Reconfiguring Aboriginal-State Relations. Edited by Michael Murphy. Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, School of Policy Studies: Queen’s University, 2005. 329-352


**Parliament, Electoral Democracy, and Political Representation**


PART THREE: Indigenous Politics in ‘Canada’

Part three surveys selected scholarship on Indigenous politics, understood as a global field studying how Indigenous peoples’ govern themselves and exercise political agency, with a focus Nations that now exist in relationship to “Canada.” It is organized to reflect major terms, themes, and areas of dialogue within the field; since these dialogues are constantly evolving, the labels are imperfect and provisional.

Decolonization


**Resurgence**


* Simpson, Leanne, and Kiera L. Ladner, eds. This is an Honour Song: Twenty Years Since the Blockades. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Publishing, 2010.

Reconciliation


**Indigeneity and Nationhood**


**Contested Identities, Contested Belonging**


Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Self-Government


Indigenous Organizing/Social Movements


Indigenous Internationalisms and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples


**Treaties/Diplomacy**


**Indigenous Political Traditions**


**Indigenous Legal Traditions**


**Indigenous Feminisms, Masculinities, and Queer and Two-Spirit Critiques**

*Indigenous Feminisms*


**Indigenous Masculinities**


*Indigenous Queer and Two-Spirit Critiques*


**Territoriality**


Climate Change and Environmental Justice


Settler Colonialism


**Settler Capitalism**


**Colonization as Gender- and Sex-Based Violence**


**Race, Anti-Racism and Racialization**


Indigenous Methodologies


* Wildcat, Matthew, Mandee McDonald, Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, and Glen Coulthard. “Learning from the Land: Indigenous Land Based Pedagogy and Decolonization.” *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society* 3(3) (December 1, 2014). Online.


**Critiquing Political Science**


Critiquing the University


