



ECON 4880/5066 - Economic Policy and Indigenous Peoples

Summer 2024

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Office hours: By appointment

TA: TBA

Classroom: Online synchronous/asynchronous

Course Page: brightspace.carleton.ca

Time: Tuesday 18:05 – 20:55

Note: Please read this document **in its entirety** before our first class on Tuesday, May 7th. Furthermore, please check for updates often on CU's Brightspace, as Brightspace will be heavily relied upon for course-relevant updates and communications.

1 Land Acknowledgement:

Carleton University is situated on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. By recognizing this, we acknowledge our ongoing responsibilities to the Algonquin people and our commitment to honour their culture and lands. Furthermore, because our class is virtual, I hope this acknowledgment can extend beyond our physical campus to encompass the diverse lands on which we live and study, wherever that may be. All reading this are encouraged to reflect upon the history and culture of those tied to their local land and to consider our collective responsibilities to it.

2 Course Description

This course critically examines the relationship between Canadian policy, past and present, and the welfare of Indigenous Peoples. To achieve this, students will become familiar with tools and concepts from within economics to aid in such policy analysis. As such, we aim to marry economic theory with historical and contemporary case studies, offering students an opportunity to apply economic concepts to understand and critique the impacts of Canadian policies on Indigenous communities. Additionally, this course provides an introduction to Indigenous self-determination and how Indigenous governance practices relate to their economy.

2.1 Prerequisites and Preclusions:

Econ 4880 Prerequisite(s): ECON 2030 with a grade of C+ or higher; ECON 2103 with a grade of C+ or higher; and ECON 3706 or ECON 4706, which may be taken concurrently with ECON 4880 or may be waived by permission of the Department.

Econ 5066 Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in a graduate program at Carleton University.

3 Class Format

Classes will take place live on Zoom between 18:05 and 20:55 on Tuesday evenings for the entire summer semester. Hopefully, students can attend (virtually) in person and contribute to class discussions. Guest lecturers will also give talks with the opportunity for student Q&A. However, lectures will be recorded and posted on Brightspace for students who cannot attend live the following day.

3.1 Brightspace

This course will make extensive use of Brightspace. On top of all assignment submissions, materials such as lecture slides and additional readings will be posted on Brightspace. Brightspace will also be used to send announcements to the class.

Because this may be your first time using/accessing Brightspace, please ensure you are familiar with it **before** classes begin. For additional information on Brightspace and how to navigate it, please see: [Brightspace Tour for Students](#).

3.2 Course Material

Virtual classroom teaching and learning activities, including Zoom lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by instructors, guests, and students, are copy-protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including slides, recorded lectures, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes publicly, **recorded lectures**, and/or course materials without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

3.3 Required Readings

Textbook: Hageman, Anya (2024): [Economic Aspects of the Indigenous Experience in Canada](#), Second Edition. This book is digital and freely available online.

Journal Articles: Additional to the textbook, students will be given a variety of readings for each class. The readings are expected to be completed **before** the lecture in which the topics are discussed. A full list of all required readings will be shared on the class Brightspace page.

Additional Media: Some classes may have podcasts and videos, which will be otherwise treated the same as the required readings and will be listed with links on Brightspace.

4 Topics to be Covered

Table 1 presents the tentative breakdown of the semester by class and provides a title of the topic to be covered.

Table 1: **Tentative Course Outline**

Introduction and Background	
Class 1	Introduction and How to Think Like an Economist
Class 2	Indigenous Economies Before European Contact
Historical Context	
Class 3	The Extinction of the Bison: Human Capital and Intergenerational Trauma
Class 4	Commerce and Colonial Trade: Furs by a Frozen Sea
Class 5	The Rules of the Game: Institutions and Economic Growth
Class 6	The Repression of Indigenous Institutions: The Case of the Potlach
Class 7	War and Colonial Violence: Mi'kmaq Relations with the Acadians
Present Day	
Class 8	Indigenous Methods of Resource Management: Avoiding the Tragedy of the Commons
Class 9	Self-Determination and Land Agreements: The Modern Treaty Era
Class 10	Indigenous Entrepreneurship and Community-Led Action
Class 11	Financial Inclusion (and the lack thereof): Indigenous Access to Finance
Class 12	Is more always better? Indigenous Perspectives of Immigration Policy
Big Picture and Wrap-up	
Class 13	The Big Picture: Canadian Economic Policy and Indigenous Communities

Note: Required readings for each class are posted on Brightspace. The topics covered and the order of classes are subject to change; students are responsible for regularly checking Brightspace for changes and updates.

5 Evaluation

Student performance in this course is evaluated as follows:

5.1 Quizzes (20%)

Each week, beginning with class 3, students will be required to complete a short quiz online to ensure they're keeping up with lecture material. Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions and one short answer question. Quizzes can be written at your convenience via Brightspace at any time during the week so long as they are completed by 11:59 pm the following Monday. However, once you begin the quiz, you will only have 20 minutes to complete, and only one attempt per quiz will be allowed. There will be ten quizzes total, one for each week, three through twelve. However, only your top eight results will be considered and weighted equally to make up your total quiz grade.

5.2 Presentations (15%)

Students will be required to present a peer-reviewed journal article to the class once throughout the semester. Students are expected to present during class time. However, those who cannot attend class live will have the option to record their presentation and upload it to the class Brightspace page prior to the class they are scheduled to present. The plan is for these to be solo presentations, however, if enrollment is large enough, we will switch to group presentations.

5.3 Midterm (30%)

There will be one midterm exam, which will be in the form of a take-home assignment and will be posted on Brightspace on June 18th (the class prior to the Midterm break). Students will then have two weeks to complete the midterm, with a Brightspace submission deadline of 11:59 pm, Tuesday, July 2nd.

There will be no deferred midterm and no extensions. Students who can document a compelling reason for not submitting the midterm exam on time will be excused, and the weight of the midterm will be automatically added to the final exam.

5.4 Final Exam (35%)

The final exam will also be in the form of a take-home assignment and will be posted on Brightspace on August 13th (the class prior to the August Exam period). Students will then have until 11:59 pm, Friday, August 23rd, to submit the exam (the final day of the summer exam period).

5.5 Grading and Further Details

Presentation requirements will be the same for 4880 and 5066 students, though as graduate students, those enrolled in 5066 will be held to a higher standard. Take-home Midterm and Final will have different questions depending on your enrollment in either 4880 or 5066. Quizzes will be the same for all students.

Further details on the Quizzes, Presentations, Midterm, and Final exams will be discussed in the first class and posted on Brightspace early in the semester.

5.6 Plagiarism:

Please be aware that plagiarism is a serious offence in this course and at Carleton in general. All graded submissions for this class are solo projects (with the exception possibly of presentations. See above). Therefore, each student must submit independent and original work in order for your work to be considered for grading. **This precludes students from using LLM and AI software such as Chat GPT.** For more information, please visit the Economics Department's [Statement on Plagiarism](#) and Carleton's page on [Academic Integrity](#).

6 Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request and for more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator and visit: [Academic Accommodations](#).

7 Final Notes

Congratulations on reading the entire syllabus! To show you've completed this task, please email me a song recommendation by 11:59 pm on Monday, May 6th, the day before our first class, and you will receive an extra point on your final grade for the course (I'm always looking for new music). However, while I will still enjoy your recommendations, this rule will be void (*i.e.* no additional points will be given) if more than 50% of registered students send one – this is to incentivize you not to freely share this information with other students who may not have read the syllabus.