

# POSC 411 – AMERICAN INDIAN POLITICS & SOVEREIGNTY

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## Instructor

Dr. Stefanie Wickstrom

## Email & telephone

[stefanie.wickstrom@cwu.edu](mailto:stefanie.wickstrom@cwu.edu)  
509-963-1842

## Office hours

Tues, Wed., Thurs. 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

An historical and contemporary overview of political experiences and accomplishments of American Indians, with some attention to Indigenous peoples in Latin America and First Nations in Canada. Through readings, films, discussions, and writing exercises, we learn about Native Americans' experiences in U.S. politics, critically evaluate sovereignty, and examine American Indian policy. We consider barriers to justice, self-determination, and sustainable development and how barriers may be overcome.

## LEARNER OUTCOMES

- Recognize
  - Native American and Indigenous peoples in the Americas
  - Native American leaders
  - Native American nations and governments
- Evaluate
  - sovereignty and its multiple meanings
  - lifeways, traditions and other influences on the political experiences of Native American and Indigenous peoples
- Examine
  - American Indian policy
  - colonization and development in Native American and Indigenous peoples' homelands
  - Native American and Indigenous peoples' struggles for autonomy, justice and sustainable development

## RESOURCES

### FOR ONLINE STUDENTS

Carefully review information on technology presented at CWU's Online Learning site: <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements>. There you will find all necessary information about technology requirements and links to download browsers, plug-ins, and programs.

Use either **Firefox** or **Google Chrome** to best interact with Canvas.

You will need **Adobe Reader** and you can obtain it **free** at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

Some materials are presented as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx), and submitting assignments prepared using Word is required. Sign in to this website to download **Office 365, free for currently enrolled CWU students**: <https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education>.

The Wildcat Shop sometimes has good bargains on software. Cat Tech offers hardware, repair of Apple products, and buys some used hardware for cash: <https://wildcatshop.net/c-4-cat-tech.aspx>.

Materials presented at CWU's Online Student Resource Center are designed primarily for students enrolled in fully online degree programs, but students taking online classes may also find them helpful. See <http://www.cwu.edu/student-achievement/online-student-resource-center>.

### CANVAS

Canvas is the Learning Management System we use for our course. We will use Pages, Announcements, Quizzes, People, Discussions, and other Canvas tools.

Canvas Pages provide information about topics and concepts, instructions, and links to all assignments and materials related to each module. **Before getting started with module work, always carefully read the Page(s) associated with the module.** Canvas Pages are required readings.

Our course is organized as a series of modules in Canvas. Modules are groups of assignments you complete in the order they are presented. In some cases, it is necessary to complete all module work before moving on to the next module.

Reading Canvas announcements as they are published is important to your success. I will use them frequently as a way to provide information about current events and issues, share answers with the class to questions students raise with me, and communicate extended deadlines and other information about assignments.

If you are new to Canvas, you can reference **Canvas guides** as needed. See <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

You can get help while working in Canvas by clicking the “Help” icon at the bottom of the column at the left side of the screen. You can chat online in real time with a technician who can provide immediate assistance or send a message requesting assistance. You can also call the Canvas Support Hotline toll-free: (877) 399-8897.

Here is a link to CWU’s Canvas Help and Support for Students webpage: <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students>.

We may use Canvas Conferences. Here is a link to a Canvas guide on using Conferences: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-8075> . This content is linked at CWU’s Online Learning webpage on technology tools. See <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/how-do-i-use-technology-tools>.

## READINGS

Online classes require a lot of reading. Experienced students with upper-division college reading skills should expect to spend an average of about 4-6 hours/week reading. Recognize that the amount of time you need to keep up with reading will depend in part on your time-management skills.

Canvas **Pages** themselves are required readings. Read them before beginning module assignments.

Required texts:

- Wilkins, David E., and Stark, Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik. 2018. *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. Fourth ed. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Hogan, Linda. 1990. *Mean Spirit*. New York: Ivy Books.

CWU's bookstore should make them available to you, though you may be able to acquire them at better prices elsewhere.

Other required readings will be posted in module Pages as PDF files or come from e-Books in the CWU library’s collection.

**VIDEOS**

You will need to access videos online. Some may be available at no cost. Some will be available only through subscription services, such as Netflix, or other services that require you to pay to access content.

**YOUR INSTRUCTOR**

I've been teaching at CWU since 2000. I study environmental politics, political ecology, Indigenous politics and movements in Latin America, the U.S., and Canada. I got my PhD in political science from the University of Oregon. I have an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona (politics, literature, history) and got my BA in political science at CWU long, long ago.

**Contact me anytime** you have questions or need assistance figuring out what to do or how to do it! I check my email and the course site frequently and will respond to you promptly. I am available during office hours or by appointment. Call me at 509-963-1842.

**COURSE COMPONENTS****DISCUSSIONS**

Structured discussions offer you the opportunity to work with others to evaluate political experiences of Indigenous peoples. Note: **ALL DISCUSSIONS HAVE TWO DUE DATES** – one for initial posts and one for final posts. **Due dates shown on Canvas are dates by which initial discussion posts are due.** Course schedule updates and discussion instructions will always provide deadlines for initial *and* final posts.

**LEARNING JOURNALS**

You will keep a journal to record your interpretations of concepts in readings, films, and other course materials.

**ESSAYS**

You will collect information and write three essays based on your research findings. Topics are

- American Indian policy, colonialism and development in Native American and Indigenous peoples' homelands
- Native American leaders, nations, and governments
- Sovereignty and its meanings.

**PRESENTATIONS**

You will create a PowerPoint presentation, record an interview, or create a film, story, poem or some other artistic expression about the political experiences and accomplishments of American Indians in overcoming barriers to justice or to self-determination or to sustainable development—or some combination thereof. Evaluation is based in part on peer review.

**ASSESSMENT****GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>% VALUE</u>
Discussions	30%
Learning journals	20%
Essays	30%
Final presentation	20%

**GRADING SCALE**

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>% RANGE</u>
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-88
B	87-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-78
C	77-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-68
D	67-63
D-	62-60

**COURSE POLICIES****COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK**

- Contact me whenever you have questions, need assistance, or want feedback. **I am happy to help** however I can to enable you succeed and I will respond promptly to messages (within 24 hours or sooner, if possible).
- Log in to Canvas every day and carefully read announcements.
- Check the Canvas inbox and your CWU email daily.
- Check for my feedback on your assignments.
- Watch for course schedule updates: The pace of our work together may need to be adjusted as we proceed. Due dates for assignments may change. Rest assured that I will never move a due date forward (that is, make an assignment due sooner than originally indicated).
- I welcome all the feedback you may wish to provide on the course and your experiences! If you have suggestions about how to make assignments more valuable or due dates more reasonable, etc., let me know. This will help not just you and me, but others in the class and those who take it in the future.

**MISSED OR MAKE-UP WORK**

- If an emergency prevents you from completing required coursework on time, communicate with me right away.
- Make arrangements **in advance** before submitting late work.
- Missed course requirements are entered into grades as "0" points.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES****ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

You must complete all coursework and assignments using your own original ideas and own words. You must properly cite the ideas and words of others. Sanctions for plagiarism range from failure of a particular assignment to suspension from the university.

Be honest and respectful in your interactions with other students and your instructor.

Expectations of student conduct and specific student responsibilities are established by the University *and by Washington state law*. See the CWU Catalog for more information. See the Washington state Student Conduct Code (which includes proscribed conduct and disciplinary sanctions) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125>.

**ON STUDENT SUCCESS, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Link here to the Office of the Dean of Student Success: <http://www.cwu.edu/student-success/>

Link here to CWU’s Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: <http://www.cwu.edu/student-rights/>

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Students wishing to arrange academic adjustments in this class must register with Disability Services (DS). Once you register with DS, they arrange requested adjustments with instructors. Visit <http://www.cwu.edu/disability-support/requesting-student-accommodations>, email [DS@cwu.edu](mailto:DS@cwu.edu) or call (509) 963-2214 to get information about the DS intake process.

**PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE**

- This is the preliminary schedule for weeks 1-2. [See course schedule updates](#) for information on upcoming weeks. Updates are posted regularly and you will receive notifications when they are available.
- Unless otherwise specified, coursework is **due at midnight** on dates indicated.
- All discussions have 2 due dates—one for initial posts and one for final posts. **Course schedule updates and discussion instructions provide all deadlines for posts.**

WEEK	TOPICS	COURSEWORK (SEE PAGES IN CANVAS FOR MORE INFO.)	DUE DATES
1 3/26- 3/31	<b>Module 1</b> Introductions	➤ <b>Module 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canvas profile bio assignment</li> <li>• Read other students’ Canvas profile bios</li> <li>• Interest inventory</li> <li>• Read Startup &amp; Module 1 Pages</li> <li>• Readings – See Module 1 Page.</li> <li>• Learning journal entry #1 (“LJ1”)</li> </ul>	✓ <b>3/29:</b> Deadline for posting profile bio ✓ <b>3/29:</b> Deadline for completing interest inventory ✓ <b>3/29:</b> Deadline for reading Startup & Module 1 Pages
2 4/1- 4/7		<b>Module 1 continued</b>	✓ <b>4/7:</b> LJ1 due