

**Poli 311: Indigenous Politics and Governments**  
**Athabasca University**  
**Course Description and outline**

*Political Science 311: Indigenous Politics and Governments* introduces and critically examines the issues listed below.

1. Indigenous governing systems, particularly in regards to cultural traditions and beliefs, ideologies, economics, and centrality of land. In addition to this, the continuing importance of Indigenous governing traditions to
2. the evolution of Indigenous governing traditions following the arrival of European settlers on Turtle Island (what is now known as “Canada”), including the impact of the Indian Act and the imposition of other processes of assimilation
3. the diversity of Indigenous governing structures, and the challenges that must be addressed in establishing governing systems
4. the specific concerns of Indigenous women and of Indigenous peoples living in urban areas
5. the relations between Indigenous governments and the Canadian government, including arrangements for service and program delivery, and fiscal relations
6. Indigenous rights, the treaty-making tradition in Canada, the relationship between treaties and land claim agreements, and their importance to Indigenous politics and governments
7. the differences between Indigenous self-government in Canada and other countries, namely the US, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand.

## Course Outline

*Political Science 311* is divided into four units, with each unit covering different topics relating to Indigenous politics and governments. Most units are further divided into sections, with each section focusing on a particular aspect of the topic being studied. The following outline lists the units and sections in the course.

Unit/Section	Section Title
Unit 1: Introduction to Indigenous Politics and Governments	
Unit 2: Ideas about Indigenous Government in Canada	
Section 2.1:	Indigenous Government Traditions
Section 2.2:	<i>The Indian Act</i> and Indigenous Governance
Section 2.3:	Citizenship and the “Inherent Right” Movement for Self-Government
Section 2.4:	Treaties and Land Claims in Canada
Unit 3: Issues in Indigenous Government	
Section 3.1:	The Politics and Policies of Self-Government
Section 3.2:	Financing and Economic Development
Section 3.3:	Social Services
Section 3.4:	Justice
Unit 4: Interests in Indigenous Self-Government	
Section 4.1:	Métis and Inuit Issues
Section 4.2:	Urban Issues
Section 4.3:	Canada Compared I: United States and Mexico
Section 4.4:	Canada Compared II: Australia and New Zealand