

Spring 2022
POLS 354 Native American Politics
Online Course

Instructor- Dr. Thaddieus Conner
Email- conner03@nmsu.edu

Zoom Office Hours:
Thursday 2-3pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes a unique look at the politics and governance of Native Nations in North America with an emphasis on the American Southwest. We will explore contemporary issues related to tribal sovereignty, political activism, federal Indian policy, economic development, community health, and administration to provide a full and balanced understanding of tribal politics today. Aside from my lectures and the textbook, this course will integrate perspectives from tribal leaders and some of the leading Native American scholars in the field to explore these issues as they affect Native Nations at the ground level.

The course is divided into the following 6 main subject areas:

- (1) Introduction: Tribal Sovereignty and the Landscape of Native America
- (2) Overview of Federal Indian Policy
- (3) Tribal Governments
- (4) Tribal Economies and Political Participation
- (5) Issues in Intergovernmental Relations
- (6) Leadership and Activism in Native America

The course will begin by introducing students to the current landscape of Native America and the key terminology and case law vital to understanding the roots of tribal sovereignty. The second part of the course will begin with a brief overview of federal Indian policy in the United States that has defined the unique relationship that exists between tribes and the federal government as rooted in treaties, acts of Congress, Supreme Court decisions, and executive action. The third module will take an in-depth look at the various forms and functions of Indigenous governments across Indian Country followed by a discussion of some of the leading social and economic issues facing Native Nations today including economic development, community health and wellbeing, and governance challenges. The final two Content Modules will introduce students to key issues in intergovernmental relations between Native and non-Native governments and the importance of tribal leadership and activism that has shaped the rights of Native Americans present day.

This class is offered using an online format and will not meet the way traditional classes do. The course is designed to be flexible and accommodate students' schedules. At the beginning of each module, I will provide a brief introduction to the *topics* being covered and the additional material online to be discussed. My introductions will be in the form of a voice-over PowerPoint presentation and will generally be 45-60 minutes in length. After reviewing the topic introduction, you will read the assigned readings and read/watch/review the additional materials I will post for each section. You will then engage in an online discussion around a topic I will provide and take a short quiz by the conclusion of each module.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course I expect students to gain the following competencies:

- A clear understanding of tribal sovereignty and the unique trust relationship between Native Nations and the U.S. federal government
- A knowledge of traditional, constitutional, and hybrid Indigenous governments, and familiarity with the general laws and policies of Native Nations
- Familiarity with tribal economies and tribal community development initiatives
- A general understanding of the struggle for Indigenous rights and the importance of strong tribal leadership in maintaining enduring institutions

REQUIRED TEXT

Wilkins and Stark. 2018. *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. 4th Edition. ISBN: 978-1442252653 (pbk: alc paper). *e-book and other versions also available*

(Canvas) Supplemental readings posted on Canvas

GRADING POLICY*

Content Module: (50 pts. possible per module X 6 modules)	
Discussion Board (25 pts. per module)	150 pts
Quizzes (25 pts. per module)	150 pts
	300 points total

* I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus if necessary

The following scale will be applied to convert the points earned to letter grades.

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade
A	94 and above
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	59 and below

CONTENT MODULE

Content Modules are an effective learning tool designed to help you stay on task and synthesize the material in an organized and efficient manner. All of the lectures, supplemental readings, discussion boards, and quizzes will be available in a Content Module located on the course Homepage. Each of the Content Modules will resemble the following format and must be completed by the specified date:

<p>Module _ “Subject Heading”</p> <p>Topic Introduction</p> <p>Lecture 1</p> <p>Lecture 2</p> <p>Assigned Readings</p> <p>Wilkins Book</p> <p>Additional Materials</p> <p>Cherokee v. Georgia</p> <p>Discussion Topic</p> <p>Tribal Sovereignty</p> <p>Quiz #</p>

Each module begins with a brief introduction to the section’s topic(s) in the form of a short lecture. After reviewing the class lecture(s), you will read the assigned chapters from the Wilkins book and review the additional material I will post on the Content Module. These resources will help you develop responses to the discussion board and prepare you for the short quiz at the end of each module. The quiz and discussion board essay for the module will be due no later than 11:59pm on the specified date. See the “Course Outline” portion of this syllabus for more information on how the class is structured.

Discussion Board

Class discussion is a considerable portion of your final grade and will be assessed according to your individual responses to an open-ended question. Answers should address the question being presented in at least 400 words (equivalent to about two pages double spaced) not including references. Develop your arguments by referencing the Wilkins book and additional (credible) materials as you see fit. Please provide both in-text citations and a list of references at the end of your essay and avoid relying excessively on direct quotes. You can use any citation style you would like. Just be consistent! While not required, you are encouraged to respond to other student posts on the board to make class more engaging.

You will have the opportunity to post a response to the initial discussion question (posted at the beginning of each module) by no later than 11:59 PM on the specified date. Please see the “Instructions for Discussion Boards” document located on the *Course Information* module on the

Homepage for more details on how discussion postings will be evaluated. *Late essays will be penalized 10% per day late and receive a 0 once the board has closed the following Sunday.*

Dates to Remember:

- Discussion Board (DB) 1 initial post due by Sunday January 30th
- DB 2 initial post due by Sunday February 13th
- DB 3 initial post due by Sunday March 6th
- DB 4 initial post due by Tuesday March 27th
- DB 5 initial post due by Sunday April 17th
- DB 6 initial post due by Sunday May 1st

Quizzes

There will be a quiz worth 25 points at the end of each Content Module. The purpose of these short quizzes is to help draw the material into sharper focus and encourage you to think critically about the various topics of the course. You may take the quiz at whatever time is convenient for you (or when you feel best prepared) during the module. The quizzes will be timed and are closed book/note/internet (you may not click off the quiz page once it has started). You will have until 11:59pm on the final Sunday of each module to complete the quiz. Please see the “Instructions for Class Quizzes” document for more information on format and grading criteria. Quizzes not completed prior to the due date will receive a 0 so please allow plenty of time.

Dates to remember:

- Quiz 1 due by Sunday January 30th
- Quiz 2 due by Sunday February 13th
- Quiz 3 due by Sunday March 6th
- Quiz 4 due by Sunday March 27th
- Quiz 5 due by Sunday April 17th
- Quiz 6 due by Sunday May 1st

Note on the online environment:

For those of you who are new to web courses, online learning requires a considerable amount of self-discipline and time management than traditional classroom settings. While the online format allows you more freedom to determine when you will access information and complete assignments, it requires a high level of commitment to completing the work in a timely manner. My goal is for you to be successful in this course and gain a greater understanding of public administration. The class moves at a rather quick pace so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

COURSE OUTLINE

Module	Topics	Readings: Additional materials other than Wilkins will be posted on the Content Module
Module 1, Tribal Sovereignty and the Landscape of Native America, January 12 – January 30	Tribal Sovereignty and the Landscape of Native America 1) Course Introduction 2) Nature of Tribal Sovereignty 3) Native Lands and Native Peoples	Introduction Chapter 1 “A Tour of Native Peoples and Native Lands” Chapter 2 “Indigenous Peoples Are Nations, Not Minorities” Appendix A: 1778 Delaware-US Treaty
Module 2, Overview of Federal Indian Policy, January 31 – February 13	Overview of Federal Indian Policy 1) Key Eras in Federal Indian Policy 2) Jurisdiction in Indian Country 3) The Trust Relationship	Chapter 4 “Actors in Native Politics” Chapter 5 “A History of Federal Indian Policy”
Module 3, Tribal Governments, February 14 – March 6 <i>(Spring Break: March 7 – March 11)</i>	Tribal Governments 1) Indigenous Nations: Past and Present 2) Characteristics of Tribal Governments 3) Tribal Constitutions	Chapter 3 “Indigenous Governments: Past, Present, and Future”
Module 4, Tribal Economies and Political Participation, March 14 – March 27	Tribal Economies and Political Participation 1) Introduction to Tribal Economies 2) Indian Gaming and Tribal Sovereignty 3) Social Challenges in Indian Country	Chapter 6 “Tribal Political Economy” Chapter 7 “Indigenous Political Participation”
Module 5, Issues in Intergovernmental Relations, March 28 – April 17	Issues in Intergovernmental Relations 1) Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction 2) Education Policy 3) Environmental Justice	Canvas Readings: Criminal Jurisdiction Canvas Readings: Indian Education Canvas Readings: Environmental Justice
Module 6, Leadership and Activism in Native America, April 18 – May 1	Leadership and Activism 1) Indian Activism and the Red Power Movement 2) The Politics of Identity 3) Present Day Political Movements	Chapter 8 “Native Interest Group Activity And Activism” Chapter 9 “Native Peoples, Images, and the Media” Chapter 10 “Indigenous Nations”

COURSE POLICIES AND RULES

Academic and non-academic misconduct: The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is available in the NMSU Student Handbook online:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/>

Academic misconduct is explained here:

<http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/academic-misconduct/>

Academic and non-Academic misconduct may take several forms including plagiarism (submitting work that is copied from another source), cheating, and disruption of class. Always use in-text citations when referencing ideas that are not your own to avoid plagiarism (whether intentional or not). If you are not sure, please do not hesitate to contact me. Academic misconduct will result in a zero for the work involved. In addition, university disciplinary or other action may result as well.

Attendance:

Class attendance is not required; however, it will be very difficult for you to do well in this class if you do not regularly visit the Canvas course and access the lectures, additional readings or material, and assignments posted each week.

Class Decorum:

I expect you to conduct yourself in a professional manner in this online class, especially as it relates to the discussion board. While I hope to encourage lively discussions, I also expect you to respect each other and limit critiques to substantive issues. I reserve the right to remove anyone who is disrupting the class.

Incomplete Grades

I only grant Incompletes under the most extreme circumstances. According to the NMSU catalog, “The grade of I (incomplete) is given for passable work that could not be completed due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.” Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help clarify any further.

Multiple Submissions

All submissions for this course are expected to be your original work. Work submitted as part of another class or other assignment will result in a failing grade.

Contacting Me

Again, my goal is for everyone to be successful in this course. I will do everything in my power to provide you with the support and guidance necessary to reach your fullest potential. In terms of accessibility, I will be holding office hours every Thursday via Zoom. I encourage you to take advantage of this time to address any issues you may have, especially if they are time sensitive. Regarding e-mail, I will do my best to respond within 24 hours of receiving your message Monday-Friday.

Withdrawals and Drop/Add

It is up to you, the student, to monitor your progress in this class. You will not be automatically dropped or withdrawn from the course due to non-attendance or failure to complete assigned work. Grades for submitted work, participation and exams, will be available on-line through Canvas.

Written Assignments

All assignments must be submitted by the due dates listed. Improperly submitted assignments that result in delays will accrue penalties according to the late policy. With regards to format, I do not have a preference. Just be consistent!

The following includes important information from the NMSU Provost's Office:

COVID-19 Expectations and the Crimson Commitment

You are expected to comply with all university requirements and expectations regarding mask-wearing, vaccination, and testing, or you should not enroll in in-person course sections. Please do not come to class if you are feeling sick; communicate with your instructor about making up any missed classes.

Mask requirements for all students

All students, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask while indoors on any NMSU system campus. Any changes to this guidance will be posted online at now.nmsu.edu/plan/key-updates-and-quick-reference.html. Students seeking an exception to the mask-wearing requirement should contact the [Dean of Students Office](#) at 575-646-1722.

Vaccination and testing protocols

Students who are not NMSU employees (vax or test):

If you will be present on any NMSU campus at any time to fulfill program requirements or participate in activities:

- Be fully vaccinated – full vaccine series (one or two doses) plus 14 days – or submit results of an antigen or PCR test to [VaxTrax](#) on a weekly basis.
- Receive a booster within 4 weeks of eligibility (as defined by current FDA recommendation) or submit results of an antigen or PCR test to [VaxTrax](#) on a weekly basis.

If you will not be present on any NMSU campus, you are not required to follow the vax or test protocol, but we encourage you to become vaccinated as soon as possible.

Students who are NMSU employees (vax unless exempt):

If you are a student employee of NMSU (or would like to become one), whether teleworking or in person, you must:

- Be fully vaccinated – full vaccine series (one or two doses) plus 14 days – or obtain an approved and documented exemption.
- Receive the booster within 4 weeks of eligibility (as defined by current FDA recommendation) or submit results of an antigen or PCR test to [VaxTrax](#) on a weekly basis.

The Crimson Commitment

All students will acknowledge the Crimson Commitment at [my.nmsu.edu](#).

[The Crimson Commitment](#)

Stay informed about COVID-19 at NMSU

More information about the NMSU system’s COVID-19 response can be found at [now.nmsu.edu](#). In addition, updates are available to students and their families through many communication channels. Links to visit or subscribe are available at [now.nmsu.edu/plan/communication-and-information-sharing.html](#).

Discrimination & Disability Accommodation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Disability Access Services
Corbett Center Student Union Room 208
Aaron Salas, Director
575-646-6840
das@nmsu.edu

New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. Inquiries may be directed to Laura Castille, Executive Director, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity; equity@nmsu.edu.

Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint, contact:

Laura Castille, Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)
O’Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue

Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
 Website: <http://equity.nmsu.edu/>

Other NMSU Information

Below are important phone numbers and information for each campus. Information on how to report a complaint, incident, or concern can be found at [NMSU Report](#).

For any on campus emergencies, call 911.

NMSU Police Department:	(575) 646-3311	www.nmsupolice.com
NMSU Aggie Health and Wellness (medical and counseling services):	(575) 646-1512	www.wellness.nmsu.edu
NMSU Dean of Students:	(575) 646-1722	
For Any On-campus Emergencies:	911	

Important Dates — Spring 2022

Students enrolled in fall courses should refer to the important dates outlined at <https://records.nmsu.edu/important-dates-students/> for more information. The table below outlines some important dates for each term.

	Full Term (16 weeks)	Mini-Semester 1 (First 8 Weeks)	Mini-Semester 2 (Second 8 weeks)
Add Course without Instructor Permission	January 13	January 13	March 15
Add Course with Instructor Permission	January 24	January 18	March 17
Late Registration- Late Fee Assessed	January 14-January 24	January 14-January 24	March 16 - March 17

Withdraw from class with full refund	January 28	January 23	March 23
Withdraw from class with no refund (W)	March 17	February 25	April 29
Withdraw from the University	April 29	February 25*	April 29*

**Date only applies if student is ONLY enrolled in all Mini-Semester 1/Mini-Semester 2 courses.*

Important Dates & Academic Calendar(including mini-semester dates): <https://records.nmsu.edu/important-dates-students/>

Grading Policy

NMSU's grading policy is outlined in [ARP 4.55](#). More information can be found at: <https://records.nmsu.edu/grades/>.

Recording Lectures

Class lectures can be recorded and are covered by [ARP 11.05, Part 2, Letter I](#). These recordings should not be distributed by anyone other than the instructor.

Student Support Services

[Aggie One-Stop](#) is student service center designed to help both undergraduate and graduate students manage the business of going to college, as well as resources to connect with university departments. Information and answers about admissions, financial aid, registration, bill payment and student records, advising, housing, parking, and health & wellness can all be found in a single location.

Website: <http://onestop.nmsu.edu>

Phone: [575-646-NMSU \(575-646-6678\)](tel:575-646-NMSU)

Email: onestop@nmsu.edu

Privacy Policies

NMSU takes protecting and honoring your privacy very seriously. Please note that several software and technology materials can be used in a course. Some privacy policies are linked below.

- [Canvas Privacy Policy](#)
- [Adobe Privacy Policy](#)
- [Firefox Privacy Policy](#)

- [Google Product Privacy Guide](#) (e.g., Chrome, Google Drive, YouTube)
- [Microsoft Privacy Policy](#)
- [Apple Privacy Policy for software and devices](#)