

# **SSC 105: Civics through Native Perspectives**

## **School of Health and Social Sciences**

5 Credits

Effective Date (1/1/2023)

*Access to the Internet is required.*

*All written assignments must be in Microsoft-Word-compatible formats.*

*See the library's APA Style Guide tutorial for a list of resources that can help you use APA style.*

## Faculty Information

Professional experience information for instructors is found under *Syllabus, Schedule, and Course Team* in the online course menu.

## Contact Information

Contact information for instructors is found under *Syllabus, Schedule, and Course Team* in the online course menu.

## Course Description

Civics through Native Perspectives covers the fundamentals of civic education from an Indigenous perspective. The course will approach civics from a perspective that incorporates the sovereignty of Native nations and their relationships with the United States federal, state, and local governments. This course reincorporates voices and experiences typically omitted from traditional Civics courses.

Throughout the course, you will work with deep and heavy themes, including identity, sovereignty, activism, education, and community. These themes undercut the way history is told and form essential pieces of our understanding of the way the world works. Engaging with these themes will require students to think critically and to take on controversial topics with maturity and respect. We will have frequent guest speakers and cultural learning experiences throughout the class to connect students with curriculum and to further our goal of decolonizing educational experiences.

## Course Resources

Required and recommended resources to complete coursework and assignments are found on the course [Reading List](#). Access is provided through the *Reading List* link in your online course as well as from the library homepage (“Find Your Reading List” button).

**Note:** Required resources that must be purchased by the student are tagged “Purchase from a vendor of your choosing.” Required resources with a direct link, “Available through CityU Library”, are available electronically at no cost to students.

Students in Canada may purchase course resources from the [Canada Bookstore](#), and students outside the U.S. and Canada should contact their advisor or textbook coordinator for additional information.

# Course Outcomes

This course will prepare students to:

- Understand the indigenous history of the United States, including the historical and present-day relationship between Native tribes and the United States.
- Critically analyze primary, secondary, and tertiary historical sources.
- Conduct inquiry-based research projects.
- Prepare critical arguments based on evidence, research, and analysis.

## Additional Information

This is a new heading for our syllabus template. Programs are using this to list additional information required by accreditors, or core concepts/knowledge/skills.

## Grading Scale

The grades earned for the course will be calculated using City University of Seattle's decimal grading system, found in the current [University Catalog](#).

Grading rubrics with details on how each assignment will be graded are located under *Assignments* and/or in *My Grades* in the online course menu. Students should review the rubric for each assignment prior to completing their work in order to understand how it will be assessed.

## Course Assignments and Grading

### **Land Back Argument (23% of Final Grade)**

Students will present (written or oral) a well-researched, evidence-based argument how the US National Park system intersects with tribal sovereignty and plenary power. Students will utilize digital and print sources from Native voices for research and apply their understanding of tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and the Supremacy Clause to current jurisdictional issues surrounding national parks. Student arguments will present a recommendation for parks land management that demonstrates their understanding of tribal treaty rights as well as ongoing and historic Indigenous environmental stewardship.

### **State Civics Standards Critique (23% of Final Grade)**

Students will conduct an analysis of the Washington State high school Civics standards, using Federal Indian Policy as a lens to examine the standards for settler-colonial bias. Students will analyze the evolution of Federal Indian Policy over the course of US History and examine the impacts of current policies on Native nations today. Utilizing their knowledge of policy and policy goals, students will examine Washington State's Civics standards to highlight and critique areas

that promote and continue a settler-colonial bias in high school civics classrooms. Students will present their critiques and proposed revisions to an audience of community members, including but not limited to: pre-service teachers, members of OSPI, and school & district administrators.

### **Resurgence Movement Presentations (23% of Final Grade)**

Students will create presentations that examine a recent Indigenous resurgence movement (NoDAPL, LandBack, tribal economic revitalization, cultural reclamation, and others) and identify the ways in which these movements exemplify Native civic engagement in a post-self-determination era. Students will analyze the ways in which cultural resurgence operates as an essential component of sovereignty in a variety of contemporary issues. Presentations will reflect the ways in which cultural revival has promoted political revitalization and amplified tribal agency in ways that are proactive rather than reactive. Students will evaluate movements for factors that contribute to their success, with particular focus on the key role played by cultural resurgence.

### **Instructor Determined Assignments (31% of Final Grade)**

The instructor will determine a set of activities that support the course outcomes and major assignments of the class. These activities could include collaboration, discussion, participation, peer-review, learning reflections, learning checks or other activities online or in-class. Descriptions are provided by the instructor in the course.

## **Course Policies**

Course policies on topics such as *Late Assignments*, *Participation*, and *Professional Writing* are found under *Course Information* in the online course menu. Students are responsible for reviewing and applying these policies while enrolled in this course.

## **University Policies**

Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of City University of Seattle's academic policies. The most current versions of these policies can be found in the [University Catalog](#) that is linked from the CityU Web site.

### **Antidiscrimination**

City University of Seattle and its staff and faculty are committed to supporting our students. We value equity, diversity, and inclusion as a way of life as well as the educational opportunities it provides. City U will not tolerate any form of discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, socioeconomic status, or religious values. If you have experienced any discrimination based on any of the above, we encourage you to report this to the University. Please report this to your instructor. If you do not feel safe reporting this to your instructor, please report to the Provost or to the Vice President of Student Affairs.

## **Non-Discrimination & Prohibition of Sexual Harassment**

City University of Seattle adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and education. The University is committed to ensuring that the education environment is bounded by standards of mutual respect and safety and is free from discriminatory practices.

In the U.S., the University is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex/gender. Sex include sex, sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or parenting status. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and by City University of Seattle policy. City University of Seattle also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internal or external to the institution. Questions regarding Title IX, including its application and/or concerns about noncompliance, should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. For a complete copy of the policy or for more information, visit the [Title IX](#) portal page or contact the Title IX Coordinator.

In Canada, in compliance with the British Columbia Human Rights Code, the Alberta Human Rights Act, WorksafeBC, and the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta, the University believes that its environment should at all times be supportive and respectful of the dignity and self-esteem of individuals. Discrimination, harassment and bullying conduct, whether through person-to-person behaviour or via electronic communications such as email or social media is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to cultivate an environment of excellence, equity, mutual respect and to recognize the value and potential of every individual. The University will take all necessary steps to meet or exceed the requirements of the law to prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying. The Respectful Workplace Policy for the prevention of discrimination, harassment and bullying policy and procedure can be found at the [CityU in Canada](#) website.

## **Religious Accommodations**

City University of Seattle has a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The University's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available in the University Catalog and on the my.cityu.edu student portal. Accommodations must be requested by the 20% mark of this course (e.g. day 14 of a ten-week course, day 7 of a 5-week course) using the Religious Accommodations Request Form found on the student dashboard in the my.cityu.edu student portal.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity in students requires the pursuit of scholarly activity that is free from fraud, deception and unauthorized collaboration with other individuals. Students are responsible for understanding CityU's policy on academic integrity and adhering to its standards in meeting all course requirements. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) under *Student Rights and Responsibilities* on the page titled *Academic Integrity Policy*.

## **Attendance**

Students taking courses in any format at the University are expected to be diligent in their studies and to attend class regularly.

Regular class attendance is important in achieving learning outcomes in the course and may be a valid consideration in determining the final grade. For classes where a physical presence is required, a student has attended if they are present at any time during the class session. For online classes, a student has attended if they have posted or submitted an assignment. A complete copy of this policy can be in the [University Catalog](#) under *Student Rights and Responsibilities* on the page titled *Attendance*.

## **Final Assignment Due Date**

Final assignments for each class at CityU must be due on or before the final date of the course as indicated in the university's course information system. Due dates that extend beyond the final date of the course may negatively impact tuition funding for students.

# **Support Services**

## **Disability Services Accommodations Statement**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Support Services at [disability@cityu.edu](mailto:disability@cityu.edu) or 206.239.4752 or visit the [Disability Support Services](#) page in the my.cityu.edu portal. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors.

## **Library Services**

CityU librarians are available to help students find the resources and information they need to succeed in this course. Contact a CityU librarian through the [Ask a Librarian](#) service, or access [library resources and services online](#), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **Smarthinking Tutoring**

CityU students have access to free online tutoring offered through Smarthinking, including writing support, from certified tutors 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contact CityU's Student Support Center at [mycityusupport@cityu.ed](mailto:mycityusupport@cityu.ed) to request a user name and password.