

Course Outline

Department of Economics  
School of Business and Economics

**ECON 2630-3**  
**Aboriginal Economics (3,0,0)**

**Calendar Description**

Students investigate issues related to Aboriginal self-governance and economic development. Topics include the economic rationale for implementing aboriginal rights and titles; the economic explanation for income differences between First Nations and non-First Nations; the First Nations public sector; market failures and successes of First Nations; approaches to First Nations economic development; and government policy initiatives to improve First Nations economies, including a third order of government for aboriginal peoples.

**Educational Objectives/Outcomes**

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the First Nations public sector and its relationship with the other public sectors in Canada.
2. Describe how economic theory can be applied to Aboriginal economic development.
3. Explain the economic rationale and feasibility for implementing Aboriginal rights and title.
4. Apply the concept of market failure to First Nation economies.
5. Compare and contrast business costs on and off First Nation reserves.
6. Describe the economic explanations for income disparities among Aboriginals and between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in Canada.
7. Discuss different approaches to Aboriginal economic development.

**Prerequisites**

ECON 1220 or both ECON 1900 and ECON 1950

**Co-requisites**

**Texts/Materials**

Course Package

**Student Evaluation**

Assignments	0 - 50%
Midterm(s)	30 - 40%
Final exam	0 - 40%

## Course Topics

1. An Overview of the First Nations Public Sector
  - Government structure
  - First Nation fiscal relations
  - Costs of First Nation government
2. Introduction to Urban and Regional Economics and Aboriginal Economies
  - Urban development
  - Demand, supply and urban areas
  - Development strategies
3. Overview of the First Nation Economy in Canada
  - Introduction to First Nation economies
  - Economic strategy
4. Study of How Markets Work and How it Applies to First Nation Economies
  - Trade
  - Market failure and role of government
  - Coase Theorem
  - Land markets
5. How Markets Work on First Nation Lands
  - Economic development
  - Cost of business on reserve
  - Commercial activity case studies
  - Land use planning
6. Different Approaches to First Nations Economic Development
  - Capitalist approach
  - Socialist approach
  - Community economic development
7. Legislative Initiatives to Improve First Nation Economies
  - Public sector role
  - Private sector role
  - Improving efficiency

## Methods for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

As per TRU policy.

**Attendance Requirements – Include if different from TRU Policy**

As per TRU policy.

**Special Course Activities – Optional**

**Use of Technology – Optional**