

Indigenous Self-Governance & Teaching Indigenous Law as a Mandatory Course

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Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Calls to Action:*

28. We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

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Dispute Resolution Processes

Resources by Aaron Mills:

- Aaron Mills, “Rooted Constitutionalism: Growing Political Community” in Michael Asch, John Borrows & James Tully, eds, *Resurgence and Reconciliation* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2019).
- Aaron Mills, “What is a Treaty? On Contract and Mutual Aid” in John Borrows & Michael Coyle, eds, *The Right Relationship: Reimagining the Implementation of Historical Treaties* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017) 209.
- Aaron Mills, “Nokomis and the Law in the Gift: Living Treaty Each Day” in Kiera L Ladner and Myra J Tait, *Surviving Canada: Indigenous Peoples Celebrate 150 Years of Betrayal* (Winnipeg: ARP Books, 2017) 17.
- Aaron Mills, “The Lifeworlds of Law: On Revitalizing Indigenous Legal Orders Today” (2016) 61:4 McGill LJ 847.

“I also really enjoyed the talking circle assignment, it was an interesting experience and I think I gained a lot of understanding about **how agreements can be reached in ways that I had never experienced before.**”

“I liked the talking circle activity as the midterm, especially with the smaller group to get to a sense of **using the circle to really problem solve together.**”

Self-Governance

“The course helped me understand Anishinaabe constitutionalism **from the community's perspective, not just as an outsider looking in. I felt immersed in their world** and as a result was able to develop a stronger and deeper understanding of the Anishinaabe people.”

Academic Freedom

“Expressed ideas that I had never been exposed to. Did not force an ideology on students but just presented ideas to us in a fair format.”

“...was very respectful of others contributions and really encouraged it.”

“I selected [the course] primarily because it fulfilled a degree credit requirement...I did not enter this course expecting to like it, but I did. This was a very valuable experience...[and] a truly excellent course.”

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Thank you