

Geography of Polar Regions
 Geography 3671/Anthropology 3813/Northern Studies 3671
 Winter 2013

Instructor: Dr. Martha Dowsley, mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca

GA: Aaron Keffer, aekeffer@lakeheadu.ca

Office hours: By appointment (please email us!)

Calendar Description:

Prerequisite: Geography 1120 or permission of the instructor

An exploration of the commonalities and differences of the Arctic and Antarctic; with an emphasis on physical environments, natural resources, conservation, indigenous peoples and international concerns.

Meeting Times: T/TH: 1-2:30 RB 3046

Website: Geography, Faculty, Dowsley, Teaching, Polar Regions

Date	Class Topic	Due Dates
Jan 8	Introduction to course	
Jan 10	Physical Geography	Sugden Ch 1 and 3
Jan 15	Physical Geography	Sugden Ch 4 and 5 Print and bring blank maps
Jan 17	Physical Geography and maps	Sugden Ch 6
Jan 22	Physical Geography and maps	TBA
Jan 24	Physical Geography and maps	TBA Assignment 1 due
Jan 29	Map and Gazetteer Quiz 10%	
Jan 30	Human Populations 1	Reading: Ch 8 187-196
Feb 5	Human Populations 2	Reading: Ch 9
Feb 7	Human Populations 3	Ch 8 196-203
Feb 12	Mid-Term Test	
Feb 14	Human Populations 4	Ch 8 Sections on the Arctic
Feb 19, 21 READING WEEK		
Feb 26	Antarctica	Ch 8 Antarctic Sections, Ch 14
Feb 28	20 th C. Canadian Arctic	Assignment 2 due
Mar 5	20 th C. Canadian Arctic	Ch 11
Mar 7	Modern Arctic 1: Nunavut	Posted Readings
Mar 12	Modern Arctic 2: Special Topic	Posted Readings
Mar 14	Modern Arctic 3: Russia	Ch 13 and Posted Readings
Mar 19	Modern Arctic 4: Greenland	Ch 10 Term Papers Due
Mar 21		Term Paper Seminars
Mar 26		Term Paper Seminars
Mar 28		Term Paper Seminars
Apr 2	TBA	
Apr 4	Review	

Evaluation

Written Tests

Map Quiz	10%
Mid-term Test	20%
Final Exam	20%

Projects

Two Short Written Assignments (10% each)	20%
Research Paper (20%) and Presentation (5%)	25%
Participation in Class Activities and Discussions	5%

Late Penalties

Assignments turned in late (after 5:00 pm the day they are due) will be docked 10% a day on your grade for the assignment. Presentations that are not given on the day assigned will receive a 0 grade unless arrangements are made beforehand with the professor.

Assigned Readings

Sugden, D. 1982. *Arctic and Antarctic, A Modern Geographical Synthesis*. Totawa, New Jersey, U.S.A.: Barnes and Noble Books.

Homework questions, **other readings** as well as notes to support presentations will be made available on the course website. Any material covered in readings or posted on the website can appear on exams.

What Will I Gain from this Course?

Factual Content

Topics covered in this course will include physical geography, biological features, human histories, (including both the indigenous cultures and the exploration, exploitation and colonization of the areas by Europeans and North Americans), as well as modern concerns such as climate change, wildlife management, and geopolitics.

Theoretical Content

The polar regions are peripheral regions both in terms of the Earth's physical geography and its human population. However, these regions are also stages upon which national and international geopolitics, human rights and environmental issues are played out. By examining the 'edges' of the Earth, we can better understand the 'middle'. One of the ways we will situate our study of the polar regions in the field of geography, is to explore various theories about 'edge' areas. In the geography literature these are called 'frontier' or 'peripheral' areas. We will also touch on some of the complexities of adaptation of the original inhabitants of the Arctic, and their struggles with colonialism and modernity.

Skills Content

Students are expected to develop critical thinking skills and communication skills through research, writing, presenting and discussing. Students are expected to participate in class activities. Studies have shown that students who are taught in an interactive fashion and who actively participate in classroom activities learn better. Homework readings will be accompanied by study questions which students are expected to complete. In this way, you will be better prepared to participate in class and engage with the material.

Communication skills are crucial to your professional development, regardless of your field. Yet many students are frightened of giving presentations and many employers complain that newly hired workers are woefully inexperienced in presenting information. Further, many undergraduates are not proficient at writing skills. In this course, we will try to work on these vital skills. All students will have the opportunity to present their term papers. Students will also have small written assignments to give them the opportunity to master basic skills such as proper referencing, before completing their term paper. This course aims to help you develop your communication skills in a friendly, supportive environment. If you have any concerns, please talk to me (mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca).