

## **Geography of the Polar Regions Term Projects 2013**

Students must complete three term projects. The first two are short summary papers and have very similar instructions. The third is an essay that must have an argument. This essay will be presented to the class.

### **Research:**

You should be using the library search engines to find papers, such as Web of Science (for science topics) or JSTOR (for anthropology topics). For guidance on how to use these, ask one of the librarians. However, not all journals are part of these systems. So you should also browse individual journals that focus on polar topics.

To browse journals, go to the library web page and select E-Journal Titles and enter one of the following titles. Look at current and back issues of the journal, or enter search words on topics of interest to you. Journals to examine for ideas and papers include: 'Antarctic Science', 'Arctic', 'Arctic and Alpine Research', 'Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research', 'Arctic Anthropology', 'Canadian Geographer', 'Polar Record', and 'Polar Research'

### **Referencing:**

Proper in-text and end-of-text referencing is key to mastering the art of the undergraduate essay. It allows a reader to follow your argument and understand where your ideas come from. The format we will be using is found in the Geography Department's undergraduate thesis manual (<http://geography.lakeheadu.ca/thesis.html>), starting on page 18. A significant part of the mark for all three assignments will be based on your competency in using proper referencing.

### **Assignment 1 Arctic Issues**

Select **three** articles on a topic that interests you from the Arctic (see below for some ideas)

Remember to use proper referencing style in text and in your works cited list appended to your paper. On the top of the first page of your answers, include your name, student number, topic and number of words (excluding works cited list).

Answer the following questions in 600-700 words total:

1. Explain the main problem the papers investigate
2. What makes the problem uniquely polar?
3. What makes it relevant to the rest of the world?
4. What should be investigated next by researchers in that field? (justify your answer using the papers)

### **Assignment 2 Antarctic Issues**

Select **three** articles on a topic that interests you from the Antarctic

Remember to use proper referencing style in text and in your works cited list appended to your paper. On the top of the first page of your answers, include your name, student number, topic and number of words (excluding works cited list).

Answer the following questions in 600-700 words total:

1. Explain the main problem the papers investigate
2. What makes the problem uniquely polar?
3. What makes it relevant to the rest of the world?
4. What should be investigated next by researchers in that field? (justify your answer using the papers)

## **Assignment 4 Term Paper and Seminar**

### **Term Paper**

Select either the topic from assignment 1 or assignment 2 and expand your work to write a 2500 word essay on that topic or a closely related one. **This term paper/essay should present an argument** and provide the main points to support this argument, as well as acknowledge counter points and argue against these.

You need a minimum of 11 references (at least 8 new, plus you may use the 3 from the first or second assignment). These must be from peer-reviewed sources, such as research articles. Internet sites may be used, but are not counted in the minimum 11 references. On the first page of your essay please include your name, student number, the title and the number of words. No cover page is necessary and please double side to save paper!

**Your essay is due Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> by 5 pm to Dr. Dowsley's box in the Geography Department.**

This is a list of example topics. Please let the professor know what your topic is. (Note: no one can write on contaminants or biomagnification)

- The benefits and drawbacks of oil and gas development in the Mackenzie Valley –now is not the right time to develop
- The search for the lost Franklin expedition resulted in a major era of exploration in Canada's arctic far beyond what a successful Franklin expedition would have meant
- Inuit Sovereignty in the Arctic: the argument for a circumpolar Inuit state
- Strengthening Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic
- How Canada's arctic policy towards northern aboriginal peoples can be improved
- Greenland should not seek independence from Denmark
- Policy recommendations to improve food security for Canadian Arctic communities
- The success and failures of educational reforms in the Arctic
- How to increase Aboriginal employment in the Arctic mining sector
- The ecological implications of krill harvesting around Antarctica
- Comparison of Amundsen and Scott as Antarctic explorers
- A critical review of the International Whaling Commission –has it helped conservation?
- Assessment of the utility of renewing the Antarctic Treaty System and likely changes to it
- Economic and social reform since the collapse of the USSR in one region (ukrug)
- Comparison of caribou herd management in different jurisdictions (ex. Alaska, Yukon, NWT etc.)
- Viability of commercial fishing in the Arctic
- How to further develop the Inuit arts movement
- Lessons from Russian oil and gas development that can be applied to similar projects in the North American Arctic (or vice versa)
- Risks to marine life posed by the use of acoustic instruments in polar marine environment surveys
- Music in the North American Arctic –can Inuit integrate tradition with modern forms?
- Challenges to ecotourism development in Nunavut

### **Term Paper Seminar**

Each student will have 7 minutes to present his or her essay to the class. Please use visuals and practice your speech ahead of time. A speech that is more than 1 minute longer or shorter than the 7 minutes will be penalized.

Students must attend all the term paper seminars– the information in them will be on the final exam, and participation marks may be awarded to the audience.