

Geography of Polar Regions
 Geography 3671/Anthropology 3813/Northern Studies 3671
 Winter 2014

Instructor: Dr. Mitchell Taylor, mktaylor@lakeheadu.ca

GA: Jordan York jcyork@lakeheadu.ca

Office hours: Drop In

Calendar Description:

Prerequisite: Geography 1120 or permission of the instructor

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

Meeting Times: T/TH: 08:30-10:00 BB 3046

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

Date	Class Topic	Due Dates
Jan 7	Introduction to course	Boone: Ch 1
Jan 9	Physical Geography	Sugden: Ch 1 and 3; Boone: Ch 2
Jan 14	Physical Geography	Sugden: Ch 4 and 5 Print and bring blank maps
Jan 16	Physical Geography and maps	Sugden: Ch 6
Jan 21	Physical Geography and maps	Boone: Ch 4
Jan 23	Physical Geography and maps	Boone: Ch 3 Assignment 1 due
Jan 28		
Jan 30	Human Populations 1	Sugden: Ch 8 187-196
Feb 4	Human Populations 2	Sugden: Ch 9; Boone Ch 7
Feb 6	Human Populations 3	Sugden: Ch 8 196-203
Feb 11	Human Populations 4	Sudgen Ch 8 remainder; Boone: Ch 5
Feb 13	Sovereignty	Boone Ch 8
Feb 17- 21 READING WEEK		
Feb 25	Antarctica	Sugden: Ch 8 Antarctic, Ch 14
Feb 27	20 th C. Canadian Arctic	Assignment 2 due
Mar 4	20 th C. Canadian Arctic	Sugden: Ch 11
Mar 6	Modern Arctic 1: Nunavut	Posted Readings
Mar 11	Modern Arctic 2: Alaska & Norway	Posted Readings
Mar 13	Modern Arctic 3: Russia	Sugden: Ch 13 and Posted Readings
Mar 18	Modern Arctic 4: Greenland	Sugden: Ch 10 Term Papers Due
Mar 20		Term Paper Presentations
Mar 25		Term Paper Presentations
Mar 27		Term Paper Presentations
Apr 1		Term Paper Presentations
Apr 3	Review/Contingency	

The course outline is an expression of an intention and can be modified by the instructor as required to meet course objectives, accommodate contingencies, and correct any errors.

Evaluation

Written Tests

Map Cartography and Map Quizzes	10%
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	30%

Projects/Assignments

Two Short Written Assignments (5% each)	10%
Research Paper (20%) and Presentation (10%)	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Late Penalties

Projects and 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.

Text

Boone, R. 2012. *The Canadian North: Issues and Challenges* 4th Edition. Oxford University Press. Ontario, Canada. 326 pp.

Assigned Readings

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

TBA

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 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.

The course outline is an expression of an intention and can be modified by the instructor as required to meet course objectives, accommodate contingencies, and correct any errors.

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 (mktaylor@lakeheadu.ca).

Quizzes:

Frequently, there will be short (T/F, multiple choice, and short answer) quizzes given near the end of class. These quizzes will focus on material that was presented recently, but the quizzes are also comprehensive. You should attend every class and should bring a soft lead pencil (#2 is best) and a good quality eraser (white gum erasers work well) to every class in case there is a quiz.

Deferred Examinations and Assignments:

Please regard class as a series of appointments that have been arranged to facilitate teaching and evaluation for Conservation Geography. I do not take roll or penalize individuals who do not attend, but you must take all quizzes and do all exercises during our regularly scheduled class time. Assignments are accepted on or before the day that they are due. Missed quizzes, missed exercises, and late assignments will be counted as zero credit unless prior approval is provided (email message or hard copy) or appropriate documentation for University approved absence is provided. Approved absence includes illness (medical practitioner certificate), varsity sports (letter or email message from coach), or personal/family emergency (documentation of circumstance). Scheduling conflicts with other courses are not considered an approved absence. Absence due to participation in scientific meetings or field trips associated with other courses will be considered on a case by case basis.

The course outline is an expression of an intention and can be modified by the instructor as required to meet course objectives, accommodate contingencies, and correct any errors.