

NECU5311 Aspects of Northern Environments and Cultures

Course Outline Fall 2015

In this course we will be exploring aspects of Northern Environments and Cultures through an examination of cultural/societal adaptation to environmental change. Case studies from 'the North' will provide examples of cultural confrontation with 'modernity' and highlight the aspects of resilience that persist in adaptive communities. The course format will follow a student-centred learning model where students are active in discussions and presentations. Students are expected to complete assigned readings and any other assignments before class to ensure they are able to participate fully. Students should also be prepared with background research for each class in order to lead portions of the seminar discussion.

Instructor

- Dr. Robert Stewart, Associate Professor, Geography and the Environment
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Evaluation

Book Review	25%
3 Journal Assignments (10% each)	30%
Term Paper	30%
Term Paper Presentation	15%

Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
Sept 17	1. Intro to Environmental / Cultural Theory	
Sept 24	2. Resilience Theory, Adaptation, Vulnerability	<i>Assigned Readings Due</i>
Oct 1	3. Adaptation Case Studies: Polar North ¹	<i>Assignment #1 Due</i>
Oct 15	4. Adaptation Case Studies: Polar North ²	<i>Assigned Readings Due</i>
Oct 22	5. Adaptation Case Studies: Near North ¹	<i>Assignment #2 Due</i>
Oct 29	6. Adaptation Case Studies: Near North ²	<i>Assigned Readings Due</i>
Nov 5	7. Adaptation Case Studies: North of Superior ¹	<i>Assignment #3 Due</i>
Nov 12	8. Adaptation Case Studies: North of Superior ²	<i>Assigned Readings Due</i>
Nov 19	9. Term Paper Final Edits: Book Review	<i>Book Review Due</i>
Nov 26	10. Student term paper presentations	<i>Assigned Readings Due</i>
Dec 3	11. Student term paper presentations	<i>Term Papers Due</i>

COURSE EVALUATION DESCRIPTION

Term Paper

Your term paper should focus on analysis of a particular issue relating to environments/people and northern environments. It should be about 4000 words in length with a minimum of 20 references.

Term Paper Proposal

Each student is required to write a proposal with your topic clearly laid out in about 1 page of writing with at least 10 references in addition to the writing. Please speak to the instructor for guidance in selecting a topic.

Journal Assignments

Journal lists will be given out in class, via e-mail, or will be available in the library. These weekly readings are primarily composed of academic journal articles that relate to the adaptation case studies in the course, but weekly readings could also come from ethnographies, reports or chapters in books.

Book Review

In addition to your weekly readings, you will also need to read select chapters from a popular Geography/Anthropology book over each week of the semester and complete a book review towards the end of the course. The book is written by Jared Diamond and is entitled *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed (2005)*. You can purchase this book in the LU library or at Chapters.