

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY – ORILLIA CAMPUS
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GEOG 3693 FAO – GEOGRAPHY OF NORTHERN EUROPE

Course Outline

A) COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Florin Pendea (OA, Room 3026)

Office hours – Wed 10:45 am – 12 pm or by appointment

B) COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will be examining the physical and human geography, human-environment interactions, landscapes and regional diversity of Northern Europe. Outside the convenience of maps and physical boundaries (e.g., mountain chains, marine basins) Northern Europe has never been a fixed place but rather a loosely defined entity that draws character from its northern location and the social and economic particularities of the populations who inhabit it. The concept of region and regional identity within Northern Europe is central to this course and will be a recurrent theme throughout the semester. We will also be looking at Northern Europe from a macro-scale perspective, that is, as a region within the larger European context. Here we will be looking at the regional identity of Northern Europe within the European continent in general and within the European Union in particular.

C) PREREQUISITES

GEOG 1150; or permission of the Department.

D) STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

At the end of semester students will be able to:

1. **Explain** the concept of region and regionalism and how this applies to Northern Europe;
2. **Identify and critically discuss** the physical and cultural diversity, history, politics and economy of the Northern European countries;
3. **Analyze and critique** the Northern European identity in the continental context, in particular, in the context of the European Union.

E) IMPORTANT DATES

Lectures are Mon and Wed from 13:00 to 14:30 hrs in OA Room 2019. Fall term runs from Sept 5 to Dec 4, as the semester progresses lectures in PPT format, assigned readings and supplementary material will be put on D2L. **A midterm test will be held in class on October 16.**

F) ASSIGNMENT

There will be one assignment worth 20 % of your final grade. This will involve research on a northern European topic and will result in a paper.

G) QUIZZES

Quizzes may be given on any week on a random basis. Read the assigned readings carefully and thoroughly every week. Be prepared for a short quiz on the readings.

A **map quiz** on northern European features will be given on September 20.

H) EVALUATION

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Assignments (1) | 20% |
| Quizzes | 10% |
| Final Exam | 40% |

The midterm test and final exam will include multiple choice and “short answer” questions as well as hand-written essays. The "short answer" questions may require one or two paragraph answers. The essays should normally be 1-2 pages long, but should not exceed 3 pages. Typically, one or two short-answer questions come from readings material not covered in lectures. One-third of the final exam will be comprehensive (i.e. from the entire semester's material).

Please realise that departments have no control over the scheduling of final examinations and that individual professors do not have the authority to allow students to write the final exam outside the designated time slot. Furthermore, there will be no opportunity to "re-do" or "make-up" missed or failed assignments and midterms. Additional work to improve a grade is not an option. If you miss the midterm or fail to submit an assignment without a doctor's certificate a mark of "1" will be awarded. Students with disabilities, however, can arrange to write the exam in a special setting. Please contact Student Affairs for more information.

I) REFERENCE TEXTS

Since no single textbook satisfy our needs I have compiled a reading list for each major topic and this will be handed out at the beginning of the semester (major texts) and progressively throughout. Some of the assigned readings will be available on D2L others can be accessed through Lakehead University Library Catalogue. Students are expected to complete the readings BEFORE class unless otherwise indicated.

J) LECTURE TOPICS*

- Introduction and course outline
- The concepts of region, regional diversity and regional identity. Defining Northern Europe
- The oldest land and the newest landscape - a physical geography of Northern Europe
- Many lands one people? – a human geography of the northernmost Atlantic, Fennoscandia and the Baltic
- The Norden regions:
 - The Fjords and the Atlantic coast – Norway
 - The lands of Ice and Fire – Iceland, Greenland and Faeroe
 - The land of the Warriors – Denmark and southern Sweden
 - The hagmark and other Swedish landscapes
 - The land of a Thousand Lakes – southern Finland
 - The home of the reindeer herders – Lapland
- The “East” of the North
 - The Baltic lands – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
 - The land of the Czars – Karelia and Northern European Russia
- The road to integration – the place of the Nordic national entities in the New Europe (EU)

K) Academic Integrity

Lakehead University values academic integrity. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences. Please refer to *Lakehead University Regulations: Academic Dishonesty*

<http://vpacademic.lakeheadu.ca/?display=page&pageid=46> for more information.

L) Class Etiquette

Out of common courtesy, your professors request a few things of you. While students are in class, they are expected to give their full attention to the professor. Reading, talking, sleeping, and leaving before the end of class are impolite. If you know before class that you will have to leave early sit towards the back near the door so as not to disrupt the class. Likewise, if you arrive late, please enter from the back of the class.

* topics are tentative and could be subject to change

Main reading list:

1. **Michael Jones and Jens Christian Hansen** (2008) The Nordic Countries: A Geographical Overview, in *Nordic Landscapes: Region and Belonging on the Northern Edge of Europe* (Michael Jones and Kenneth R. Olwig, editors), University of Minnesota Press.
2. **Ulf Sporrøng** (2008) Features of Nordic Physical Landscapes: Regional Characteristics, in *Nordic Landscapes: Region and Belonging on the Northern Edge of Europe* (Michael Jones and Kenneth R. Olwig, editors), University of Minnesota Press.
3. **Kenneth R. Olwig** (2008) Danish Landscapes, in *Nordic Landscapes: Region and Belonging on the Northern Edge of Europe* (Michael Jones and Kenneth R. Olwig, editors), University of Minnesota Press.
4. **Ulf Sporrøng** (2008) The Swedish Landscape: The Regional Identity of Historical Sweden, in *Nordic Landscapes: Region and Belonging on the Northern Edge of Europe* (Michael Jones and Kenneth R. Olwig, editors), University of Minnesota Press.
5. **Michael Jones** (2008) The "Two Landscapes" of North Norway and the "Cultural Landscape" of the South, in *Nordic Landscapes: Region and Belonging on the Northern Edge of Europe* (Michael Jones and Kenneth R. Olwig, editors), University of Minnesota Press.
6. **Anssi Paasi** (2008) Finnish Landscape as Social Practice: Mapping Identity and Scale, in *Nordic Landscapes: Region and Belonging on the Northern Edge of Europe* (Michael Jones and Kenneth R. Olwig, editors), University of Minnesota Press.
7. **Winner Andrew** (2002) The Baltic States: Heading West, *Washington Quarterly*, 25(1): 207-219.