

ENST 5311: Interactions of Environment and Culture

Instructor: M. Boyd

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Office hours by appointment

Course Description:

A student-driven weekly seminar focused on Canada's North and 'near-North' (Arctic/Subarctic/Boreal and similar) —their histories, cultures, geography, and environments. This course is designed to:

1. Strengthen your ability to critically evaluate scholarly (peer-reviewed) literature;
2. Develop your presentation and collaboration skills, as well as your skills in leading small group discussions;
3. Strengthen your written communication skills;
4. Expose you to the varied literature on northern peoples and their environments (past and present).

Evaluation:

Seminar leadership: **25%**

- Every week, one or more students will be responsible for selecting a topic and leading the discussion of roughly 2-3 key articles (each). These articles must be distributed to the other students in the class well in advance of the seminar (at least 5 days). The topic chosen is open but it should comfortably fall within the overall 'theme' of the week and make sense in relation to the previous week's topic. Evaluation is based on: the appropriateness and relevance of papers selected; the quality of seminar leadership; and depth of background knowledge of the selected topic.

Class participation: **15%**

- Regular attendance and thoughtful, informed, participation are expected for each seminar.

Short written assignments: **60%**

- **Paper #1:** Personal reflection on the relevance of northern research, description of your career aspirations and what practical steps are required for you to achieve them. Length: ~500 words. Value: **2%**. Due: Week 2.
- **Paper #2:** A concise summary of sub-topic selected under theme #1. Length: ~1000 words. Value: **13%**. This paper must be well-researched and referenced. Due: Week 5.
- **Paper #3:** A concise summary of sub-topic selected under theme #2. Length: ~1000 words. Value: **13%**. This paper must be well-researched and referenced. Due: Week 8.
- **Paper #4:** A concise summary of sub-topic selected under theme #3. Length: ~1000 words. Value: **13%**. This paper must be well-researched and referenced. Due: Week 11.
- **Paper #5:** Mock northern research proposal (~1500 words). Include: background context and significance, theoretical approach, methods, expected outcomes. Must be well-referenced and convincing to a specialist and general audience. Value: **19%**. Due: TBA.

Seminar schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to course, expectations, etc.

THEME #1: Ancient cultures and environments of the North

Week 2: M. Boyd

Topic: Deglaciation and the origins of Canada's North

1. Dyke, A. S. 2004. An Outline of North American Deglaciation with Emphasis on Central and Northern Canada. In Quaternary Glaciation - Extent and Chronology, Part II, edited by J. Ehlers and P. L. Gibbard, pp. 373-424. Developments in Quaternary Science, Volume 26. Elsevier, The Netherlands.
2. Bigelow, N.H. et al. 2007. Arctic North America. In: Encyclopaedia of Quaternary Science. Elsevier.
3. Liu, K-B. 1990. Holocene paleoecology of the Boreal Forest and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest in Northern Ontario. Ecological Monographs 60: 179-212.

Week 3: Kira, Jake, Joanna

Topic:

Week 4: Zeb, Hardik

Topic:

Week 5: Stephanie, Kira, Hardik

Topic:

Week 6: Jake, Zeb, Joanna

Topic:

Week 7: **Class cancelled** (study break)

THEME #2: Colonialism, and the 'modernization' of the North

Week 8: M. Boyd

Topic: An overview of early Indigenous-Settler relations in N. Ontario

1. Bishop, C.A. 1994. Northern Algonquins, 1550-1760. In: Aboriginal Ontario.
2. Bishop, C.A. 1994. Northern Algonquins, 1760-1821. In: Aboriginal Ontario.
3. Rogers, E.S. 1994. Northern Algonquins and the Hudson's Bay Company, 1821-1890. In: Aboriginal Ontario.
4. Soloway, B. 2015. "mus co shee": Indigenous plant foods and horticultural imperialism in the Canadian Sub-Arctic. CBMH: 253-273

Week 9: Hardik, Stephanie, Joanna

Topic:

Week 10: Kira, Jake

Topic:

THEME #3: Contemporary and Future issues relevant to the North

Week 11: Zeb, Hardik Topic:

Week 12: Stephanie, Kira, Joanna Topic:

Week 13: Jake, Zeb, Stephanie Topic: