

Lakehead University
Department of Sociology

Sociology 2817
Sociology of the North

Dr. Chris Southcott
Office: RB2040
Office Telephone: 343-8349
E-mail: Chris.Southcott@lakeheadu.ca

Fall 2020
Mondays: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Wednesdays: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Delivery: Zoom

Office Hours

In person office appointments will depend on public health regulations. Students are free to contact me by e-mail and Zoom-based appointments can be arranged.

Welcome to Sociology 2817 Sociology of the North - Covid 19 version. I have taught this course in various versions for over 30 years but this is the first time for me teaching it outside of a classroom. I have tried to redesign it to meet current needs but I understand the need to be flexible. We will start out the course having Zoom lectures on Mondays. On Wednesdays we will organize Zoom discussion groups based on questions linked to the readings. In addition I will ask you to view videos located either through Youtube or the Lakehead University Library streaming services.

Please familiarize yourself with the course structure and requirements. Look through the course to familiarize yourself with the technology and the content of the course. You can access the technology tutorials located under the Help link on the navigation menu if you are new to mycourselink/D2L.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail.

Course Objective:

This course is designed to provide students with a general knowledge of the sociological characteristics and social issues of the Circumpolar North. It starts with a general introduction to the region and by trying to answer the question “What is the Circumpolar North?”. Students are then introduced to the general environmental and social characteristics of the region and more specifically to the two main types of communities in the region: Aboriginal communities and resource-dependent communities. Emphasis is given to the types of changes that are currently affecting the region.

The second part of the course will examine the major social challenges facing Northern communities. These challenges include education, health, environmental, political, and gender-related issues.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the specific sociological characteristics and social issues associated with the Circumpolar North.
2. Describe the various definitions of the Circumpolar North.
3. List and describe the main types of communities in the Circumpolar North and the recent changes that these communities are experiencing.
4. Describe the Circumpolar North's main economic activities as well as explain how changes in these activities have impacted aboriginal and resource-dependent communities.
5. Communicate the major social challenges that Northern communities face including education, health, environmental, political, and gender-related issues.
6. Collect and evaluate secondary-sources in order to address issues and questions related to the Circumpolar North.

Texts:

There will be no required texts. Students will be required to read articles to be downloaded off the internet or located on the course website. Many of the articles used in the course are chapters in the 2014 Arctic Human Development Report which can be accessed at the sites indicated in the reading list. Please download them and print them out if you prefer reading printed material.

Basis of Evaluation:

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Learning journals | 15% |
| Mid-term Test | 15% |
| Participation..... | 10% |
| Research Paper..... | 30% |
| Final Exam..... | 30% |

Learning journals: Participants will be asked to submit a learning journal on October 21, 2020. The learning journal should contain reflective comments on material dealt with in 7 separate classes and should contain a research question and bibliography for their research paper. Each reflective comment should be a coherent statement on something you learned in the lecture, the reading, film, or other component of the course. It should be a critical reflection on something you learned through these components. For a description of the learning journal marking scheme please see the Learning Journal Rubric posted on the course website.

Research Paper: Participants will be required to write a 10-12 page (2500 word) research paper on a contemporary northern social issue. Topics should be chosen in consultation with the professor. Participants will submit a research question and bibliography as part of their learning journal. The completed paper is due on Dec. 7, 2020. Research papers should use the manuscript format suggested by the American Sociological Association.

Please note that plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Calendar. For advice to avoid plagiarism please see <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>

Participation: For a description of the participation marking scheme please see the Class Participation Rubric posted on the course website. The discussion mark for the first half of the course will be provided to participants along with the results for the mid-term test.

Mid-term Test: Participants will be required to write an online test on October 28, 2020.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will be given during the Exam period.

Accommodation and Support: Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities/medical conditions. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities/medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability/medical condition and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please email sas@lakeheadu.ca or visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

There are many resources available to support learners. Please use these services to help you in your studies. These include but are not limited to:

- Health and Wellness
- Student Success Centre: Online Learning
- Student Accessibility Centre
- Library
- Academic Support Zone (Writing and Math Tutoring Centre)
- Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services
- International
- Student Central

Course Structure and Readings

Part One: Concepts and basic structures

Sept. 9 Introduction to the Course

Week 1 – Sept 14 and 16: What is the North? Defining a region.

Young, Oran and Einarsson, Niels. 2004. "Chapter 1 Introduction: Human Development Report" Pp.15-25 in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <https://www.sdwg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Arctic-Human-Development-Report-2004.pdf>

Bone, Robert. 2009 "Chapter 1 Northern Perceptions" Pp. 1-21 in *The Canadian North: Issues and Challenges*, 3rd Edition, Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Discussion Question: What are the 5 most unique aspects about communities in the Canadian North? Why are they unique?

Week 2 – Sept 21 and 23: Northern Societies and Cultures

Schweitzer, P. et al. 2014. "Cultures and Identities." Pp. 105-150 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers. Found at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:788965/FULLTEXT03.pdf>

ReSDA Video: Michael Neyelle, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, *Social Change in the Sahtu Region*.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_mn-Ovmapw&list=PL3R8at_WcJ04azvvSrAXGLbT6vB7sIAyY&index=20

Discussion Question: How are cultures of communities in northern Canada changing?

Week 3 – Sept 28 and 30: Population Dynamics in the Circumpolar World

Heleniak, T. 2014. "Arctic Populations and Migration." Pp. 53-104 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers.

Southcott, C. 2014. Socio-Economic Trends in the Canadian North: Comparing the Provincial and Territorial Norths. *Northern Review*, 38(2), 159-177.

Discussion Question: What are the different demographic trends in the prov and territorial north and why are they different

Week 4 – Oct. 5 and 7: Major Economic Activities in Northern Communities

Huskey, L. et al. 2014. "Economic Systems." Pp. 151-182 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers.

Abele, F. 2009 "Northern Development Past Present and Future" Pp. 19-65 in *Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada's North*, edited by F. Abele, T. Courchene, F. Siedle, and F. St-Hilaire. Ottawa: Institute for Research on Public Policy.

ReSDA Video: Ken Coates, University of Saskatchewan, *History of Resource Development Across the Arctic* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3wzel4MhZU&list=PL3R8at_WcJ04azvvSrAXGLbT6vB7sIAYy&index=9&t=0s

Discussion question: Can northern communities build sustainable economies?

Study Break

Week 5 – Oct. 19 and 21: Social Change in Northern Resource Dependent Communities (Learning Journals Due on Oct 21)

Hayter, R. 2000. "Single Industry Resource Towns." In E. Sheppard & T. Barnes (Eds.), *A companion to economic geography* (pp. 290-307). Oxford UK: Blackwell.

Welcome To Pine Point 2012 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IikS9nDyFUo>

Project Info: <http://www.unit9.com/project/welcome-...>

Discussion question: What is the future of northern resource dependent communities?

Week 6 – Oct. 26 and 28: Social Change in Northern Indigenous Communities

Rodon, T., & Schott, S. (2014). Towards a sustainable future for Nunavik. *Polar Record*, 50(3), 260-276.

National Film Board Film : *CBQM* by Dennis Allen | 2009 | 1 h 6 min. Accessed through the LU Library Streaming Media in the NFB.ca Campus database.

ReSDA Video: Lisa Koperqualuk, La Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec and the Inuit Circumpolar Council, *Co-ops in Nunavik Communities* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EpNXVyRou4&list=PL3R8at_WcJ07B-ogCHUwooM470djvgnkP&index=2&t=0s

Mid term Quiz on Oct. 28

Part Two: Major Challenges

Week 7 – Nov 2 and 4: Climate Change, the North, and Environmental Issues

Arctic Council, "Context and Executive Summary", *Impacts of a Warming Arctic: Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Overview Report*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 2-20. Found at <https://www.amap.no/documents/download/1026/inline>

Duerden, Frank. 2004. "Translating Climate Change Impacts at the Community Level." *Arctic*, 57(2) : 204–212. Found at https://www.jstor.org/stable/40512620?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

ReSDA Video: Patricia Cochran, Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska and the Alaska Native Science Commission, *The Effects of Climate Change on Arctic Communities* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZGCyG1p6nQ&list=PL3R8at_WcJ06YiM-kxmIJunKHOgb7pnQt&index=3

National Film Board Film : *Angry Inuk* by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril | 2016 | 1 h 22 min. Accessed through the LU Library Streaming Media in the NFB.ca Campus database.

(Note – weekly discussion questions may continue for the second part of the course depending on how successful they are in the first part of the course)

Week 8 – Nov 9 and 11: Political Changes in the North (Learning journals due)

Poelzer, G. and Wilson, G. 2014. "Governance in the Arctic" Pp. 183-220 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers.

White, G. (2009). Governance in Nunavut: Capacity vs. Culture? *Journal of Canadian Studies*, 43(2), 57-81.

Week 9 – Nov 16 and 18 Education in the North

Hirshberg, D. and Petrov, A. 2014 "Education and Human Capital" Pp. 347-395 in 220 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers.

Hicks, Jack. 2005. "Education in the Canadian Arctic: What Difference has the Nunavut Government Made?" *Indigenous Affairs*, 1. Pp. 8-15. Found at http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/IA_1-2005.pdf

Week 10 – Nov 23 and 25 Health Issues in the North

Rautio, A. et al. 2014. "Human Health and Well-being." Pp. 297-346 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers.

Kral, M. J. 2013. "'The Weight on Our Shoulders Is Too Much, and We Are Falling' Suicide among Inuit Male Youth in Nunavut, Canada." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 27(1), 63-83. (Course website)

CBC Report (The National) : *Canada's struggle to provide health care to northern communities, 2018, 14 minutes*. Accessed through Lakehead University Library Streaming Media in the Curio.ca database.

CBC Report (The Fifth Estate) : Cross Lake: “This Is Where I Live”, 2017, 1 hour. Accessed through Lakehead University Library Streaming Media in the Curio.ca database.

Week 11 – Nov 30 and Dec 2 Resource development in the North

*Gibson, G. and Klink, J. “Canada's Resilient North: The Impact of Mining on Aboriginal Communities” *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health* 3(1) pp. 115-139. Found at <http://caid.ca/JAICH2005v3n1p115.pdf>

Huskey, L. 2018. “An Arctic development strategy? The North Slope Inupiat and the resource curse.” *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 39(1), 89-100. (Course website)

ReSDA Video: John Amagoalik, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, *Resource Development in the Arctic* at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cW5aIX3KPI&list=PL3R8at_WcJ06YiM-kxmIJunKHOb7pnQt&index=11&t=0s

Dec 7 Review