

**Lakehead University**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 4113 WA**  
**Sociology of the North**

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**Winter 2021**  
**Tuesday, 2:30 – 5:30 pm**

**Delivery: ZOOM**

**Office Hours**  
**By appointment**

**Course Objective:**

This course is designed to provide students with advanced knowledge of the sociological characteristics and social issues of the Circumpolar North. Participants will first engage in a discussion of the general environmental and social characteristics of the region followed by an in-depth examination of the major social challenges facing Northern communities. These challenges include political empowerment, gender relations, health, food security, and resource development.

**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 and the main social processes at work in the region
2. List and describe the main types of communities in the Circumpolar North and the main socio-historic processes behind their development
3. Describe and explain recent changes that these communities are experiencing.
4. Describe the Circumpolar North's main economic activities as well as explain how and why changes in these activities are currently impacting northern communities
5. Describe the major social challenges that Northern communities face and explain their origins
6. Collect and evaluate both secondary sources and primary 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.

**Basis of Evaluation:**

Mid-term Assignment.....	25%
Research Proposal.....	10%
Participation.....	15%

Presentation.....	10%
Research Paper.....	40%

**Mid-term Assignment:** Participants will be given a take home assignment on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> to be completed and handed in by Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The assignment will be comprised of a list of short essay questions relating to material dealt with in the first part of the course.

**Research Proposal:** One of the main requirements of this course is to prepare a research paper on a key question relating to the socio-economic challenges facing northern communities. The paper itself is described below but to ensure that you are prepared to write this paper you will be required to hand in a 4 page, 1000 word proposal on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. This proposal should contain a section with a background section explaining why the topic you chose is important (why you chose it), a section containing a clear hypothesis/research question, a section describing how you will examine your hypothesis/research question (ie a road map of the paper), and a suggested bibliography with at least 6 key sources.

**Participation:** This course will be run as a seminar. For this reason, it is important that all participants are actively involved in the discussions. This means that readings should be completed before each session and that participants arrive with questions and points of interest to discuss. Participation marks will be based on attendance, level and quality of participation in discussions, and level of preparedness for each session. The more a participant contributes to creating an interesting, informative, and supportive leaning environment during the seminar the higher the participation mark.

**Presentation:** During the last week of the course you will be required to present the finding of your research paper. Presentations should be 30 minutes long followed by 15 minutes of questions.

**Research Paper:** Participants will be required to write a 15-20 page (4000 to 5000 word) research paper on a contemporary northern social issue. Topics should be chosen in consultation with the professor. The completed paper is due on April 6, 2021. 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>

## **Soc 4113 FA Course Structure and Readings**

### **Part One: Concepts and basic structures**

#### **Session 1 Introduction to the course/ Defining the North: the Social Construction of a Region**

Hamelin, Louis-Edmond. 1978. "Chapter 1 Images of the North.", Pp. 3-13 in *Canadian Nordicity: Its Your North Too*, Montreal: Harvest House. Accessible at [http://lehamelin.sittel.ca/pdf/Documents/874e\\_CanadianNordicity.pdf](http://lehamelin.sittel.ca/pdf/Documents/874e_CanadianNordicity.pdf)

McNiven, C. and Puderer, H. 2000. "Delineation of Canada's North: An Examination of the North-South Relationship in Canada." *Statistics Canada Geography Working Paper Series* No. 2000-3. Accessible at <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?objId=92F0138M2000003&objType=46&lang=en&limit=0>

#### **Session 2 The Historical Development of Northern Communities**

Southcott, C. 2010. "History of Globalization in the Circumpolar World." Pp. in *Globalization and the Circumpolar World*, edited by L. Heinen and C. Southcott. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.

Bone, R. 2012. "Chapter 3: The Historical Background." Pp. 62-103 in *The Canadian North: Issues and Challenges*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

#### **Session 3 The Changing Demographics of Northern Communities**

Heleniak, T. "Arctic Populations and Migrations." Pp. 51-104 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers. Accessible at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A788965&dswid=-4438>

Southcott, C. 2014. "Socio-Economic Trends in the Canadian North: Comparing the Provincial and Territorial Norths." *The Northern Review* 38:XX pp. 159-177.

#### **Session 4 Culture and change in Northern Communities**

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. Accessible at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A788965&dswid=-4438>

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

## **Session 5 The Economies of 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. Accessible at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A788965&dswid=-4438>

Aslaksen, Julie et al. 2008. "Interdependency of Subsistence and Market Economies in the Arctic." Pp. 75-98 in *The Economy of the North*, edited by Solveig Glomsrød and Julie Aslaksen. Oslo: SSB. Found at [www.ssb.no/a/publikasjoner/pdf/sa112\\_en/sa112\\_en.pdf](http://www.ssb.no/a/publikasjoner/pdf/sa112_en/sa112_en.pdf)

## **Part Two: Major Challenges**

### **Session 6 Political Change in Northern Communities**

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. Accessible at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A788965&dswid=-4438>

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.

### **Session 7 Gender in the North**

Williamson, Karla Jessen et al. 2004. "Chapter 11 Gender Issues." in *The Arctic Human Development Report*, edited by N. Einarsson et al. Copenhagen: Council of Nordic Ministers. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Billson, J. M. 2006. "Shifting gender regimes: The complexities of domestic violence among Canada's Inuit." *Études Inuit Studies*, 30(1): 69-88.

Quintal-Marineau, M. (2017). The new work regime in Nunavut: A gender perspective. *Canadian Geographer-Geographe Canadien*, 61(3), 334-345. doi:10.1111/cag.12387

### **Session 8 Health Challenges in Northern Communities**

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.

Accessible at <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A788965&dswid=-4438>

Niezen, R. (2015). The Durkheim-Tarde debate and the social study of aboriginal youth suicide. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 52(1), 96-114.

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

### **Session 9 Food Security Issues and the Canadian North**

Chan, H. M. F., K., Hamilton, S., Rostas, L., Caughey, A., Kuhnlein, H., Egeland, G., Loring, E. (2006). Food security in Nunavut, Canada: Barriers and recommendations. *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* 65(5): 416-431.

Gombay, N. (2005). The commoditization of country foods in Nunavik: A comparative assessment of its development, applications, and significance. *Arctic*, 58(2), 115-128.

Rodon, T., & Schott, S. (2014). Towards a sustainable future for Nunavik. *Polar Record*, 50(3), 260-276. doi:10.1017/s0032247413000132

### **Session 10 Resource Development and 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>

Bernauer, W. (2019). The limits to extraction: mining and colonialism in Nunavut. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies-Revue Canadienne D Etudes Du Developpement*, 40(3), 404-422. doi:10.1080/02255189.2019.1629883

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

### **Session 11 Presentations**

### **Session 12 Presentations and Review**