

Lakehead University
Department of Sociology

Sociology 5217 WA 2023
Social Issues in the Canadian North

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Monday, 14:30 to 17:30
Seminar: RB-1024 and Zoom

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Course Description

Few places in the world have gone through social change with the speed and intensity that the communities of the Canadian North have. In a space of less than 70 years the Indigenous people of this region have had to adapt themselves from a traditional migratory hunting and fishing existence based on community co-operation and self-reliance that had served them for generations to an urban lifestyle characterized by dependence and new economic and social values such as individualism, competition, and industrialism. This transition has not been easy. The loss of much of their former self-reliance and the disparagement of their traditional culture has taken a toll on these communities. The region has also seen resource-based communities created only to be exposed to boom and bust periods which constantly put the future of these communities in doubt.

Despite these challenges it is not unfair to say that, despite the odds against them, the people of Northern Canada have been able to survive this transition and past problems caused by resource dependence. They are now looking to change the power relations that characterized their adaptation processes in the past. Rather than adapting their cultural values and lifestyles to Western patterns, they are now increasingly adapting Western values and lifestyles to meet their needs. In addition, they are looking at new ways of ensuring that resource exploitation is done in a manner that offers greater benefits to their communities.

The objective of this course is to examine the social issues facing communities in Canada's North. In particular we will examine the usefulness of sociological theory and research to understand and deal with the challenges northern communities are facing. Participants will be introduced to the unique social, economic, and historical conditions of the region followed by those challenges that have received the recent attention of social science researchers. Discussions will hope to link these challenges to social theories of change in an attempt to understand the global context of these challenges.

For this particular seminar, in the second half of the course we will focus on the challenges presented by the movement of northern Indigenous peoples into urban 'hubs' such as Thunder Bay. We will examine the conditions behind this movement and the conditions in the hub. Discussions will concentrate on Indigenous and newcomer relations, gender and the urban Indigenous experience, and the challenges faced by youth in these urban areas.

Course Outline

Session 1: Introduction: What are the major challenges facing Northern communities?

Cooke, M. (2018). Implications of Global Peak Population for Canada's future: Northern, rural, and remote communities. *Canadian Studies in Population*, 45(1-2), 55-61.

O'Sullivan, E. (2011). *The Community Well-Being Index (CWB): Measuring Well-Being in First Nations and Non-Aboriginal Communities, 1981-2006*: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Ottawa.

O'Keefe, V. M., Tucker, R. P., Cole, A. B., Hollingsworth, D. W., & Wingate, L. R. (2018). Understanding Indigenous Suicide Through a Theoretical Lens: A Review of General, Culturally-Based, and Indigenous Frameworks. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 55(6), 775-799.

Session 2: The Historical Development of Northern Canada

Coates, K., Holroyd, C., & Leader, J. (2015). Managing the Forgotten North: Governance Structures and Administrative Operations of Canada's Provincial Norths. *Northern Review* (38).

Southcott, C. (2010). Migration in the Canadian North: An Introduction. In L. Huskey & C. Southcott (Eds.), *Migration in the Circumpolar North: Issues and Contexts* (pp. 35-56). Edmonton: CCI Press.

Dunk, T. (2007). Thunder Bay: Between a rock and a hard place in Northwestern Ontario. *Our Diverse Cities*, 4, 99-103.

Session 3: Rise and Fall of Northern Resource Dependent Communities

O'Shaughnessy, S., & Krogman, N. T. (2011). Gender as contradiction: From dichotomies to diversity in natural resource extraction. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 27(2), 134-143.

Storey, K. (2018). From 'new town' to 'no town' to 'source', 'host' and 'hub' communities: The evolution of the resource community in an era of increased labour mobility. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 13(3), 92-114.

Teitelbaum, S., Montpetit, A., Bissonnette, J. F., Chion, C., Chiasson, G., Doyon, F., . . . Tardif, J. (2019). Studying Resource-Dependent Communities Through a Social-Ecological Lens? Examining Complementarity with Existing Research Traditions in Canada. *Society & Natural Resources*, 32(1), 93-112.

Session 4: Development and Canada's Northern Reserves

Marquina-Márquez, A., Virchez, J., & Ruiz-Callado, R. (2016). Postcolonial healing landscapes and mental health in a remote Indigenous community in subarctic Ontario, Canada. *Polar Geography*, 39(1), 20-39.

Fraser, S. L., Parent, V., & Dupere, V. (2018). Communities being well for family well-being: Exploring the socio-ecological determinants of well-being in an Inuit community of Northern Quebec. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 55(1), 120-146. doi:10.1177/1363461517748814

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. doi:10.1080/02255189.2017.1391067

Session 5: Theoretical Considerations: The Rise of Settler Colonialism as an Explanation

Watkins, M. 1977. "From Underdevelopment to Development." Pp. 84-99 in *Dene Nation - the Colony Within*, edited by M. Watkins. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Wolfe, Patrick. 2006. "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native." *Journal of genocide research* 8(4):387-409.

Coulthard, Glen S. 2007. "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada." *Contemporary political theory* 6(4):437-60. doi: 10.1057/palgrave.cpt.9300307.

Session 6: Northern Community Case Studies

Presentations

Session 7: Urban migration of Indigenous communities

Norris, M. J., & Clatworthy, S. (2011). Urbanization and migration patterns of Aboriginal populations in Canada: A half century in review (1951 to 2006). *aboriginal policy studies*, 1.

Peters, E. (2009). Opportunities and Challenges Urban Environments Represent For Urban Aboriginal. *Victoria*, 19, 3.4.

Gross, D. M., & Richards, J. (2012). Breaking the Stereotype: Why Urban Aboriginals Score Highly on 'Happiness' Measures. Ottawa: C.D. Howe Institute.

Session 8: Indigenous and Newcomer Relations

Denis, J. S. (2015). Contact theory in a small-town settler-colonial context: The reproduction of laissez-faire racism in Indigenous-white Canadian relations. *American Sociological Review*, 80(1), 218-242.

Rutherford, S. (2017). "We Have Bigotry All Right—but No Alabamas": Racism and Aboriginal Protest in Canada during the 1960s. *American Indian Quarterly*, 41(2), 158-179.

McCaskill, D. (2012). Discrimination and Public Perceptions of Aboriginal People in Canadian Cities. *Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network. Urban Aboriginal Research Paper Series*, 38.

Session 9: Gender, Youth and the Urban Indigenous Experience

Janovicek, N. (2009). Assisting Our Own: Urban Migration, Self-governance, and Native Women's Organizing in Thunder Bay Ontario, 1972 - 1989. In S. Krause & Howard, H. (Eds.), *Keeping the Campfires Going: Native Women's Organizing in Urban Communities* (pp. 56-75). Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.

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

Gardam, K., & Giles, A. R. (2016). Media Representations of Policies Concerning Education Access and their Roles in Seven First Nations Students' Deaths in Northern Ontario. *International Indigenous Policy Journal*, 7(1).

Sessions 10 to 12: Students presentations

Basis of Evaluation:

One article critique	10%
Community Report and presentation	30%
Seminar Presentation	10%
Participation	10%
Research Paper	40%

Students will prepare one short written critique of an article. Each critique should be 2 or 3 pages (or approximately 1,000 words). The critiques will be written in the form of an academic book review. The critiques will be read during seminars 3 to 8.

Students will select a community in Canada's North and write a report on the challenges facing that community. It should be 8 to 10 pages in length (or approximately 3,500 words) and written as if you were a consultant writing it for an NGO who is looking to assist that community. The report will be presented during Session 6. The report will be worth 25% of your final mark and the presentation will be worth 5%. The community report will be due on Session 6.

The research paper should be between 15 to 20 typewritten pages (or approximately 7,000 words). Topics should relate to the subject matter of the course and should be chosen in conjunction with the professor. Research papers should use the manuscript format suggested by the American Sociological Association (or APA). Students will organize a seminar around the topic of their research paper.

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>