

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

**Sociology 2817 WA**  
**Sociology of the North**

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**Fall 2019**  
**Tuesdays: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Thursdays: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Room: ATAC 1001**

**Office Hours**

**Tuesdays 1 pm to 2 pm and as requested**

**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 placed in the reserve or to be downloaded off the internet. 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:**

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 22, 2019. 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 Nov. 28, 2019. 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 in-class test on October 22, 2019.

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

# Course Structure and Readings

## Part One: Concepts and basic structures

### September 3: Introduction to the course/ Defining the North: the Social Construction of 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>

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

### September 5: 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>

### September 10 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.

Duhaime, Gerard and Caron, Andre. 2008. "Economic and Social Conditions in Arctic Regions" in *The Economy of the North*, edited by Solveig Glomsrød and Iulie Aslaksen. Oslo: SSB. Found at <http://www.chaireconditionautochtone.fss.ulaval.ca/documents/pdf/econor-2.pdf>

### September 12 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.

### September 17 TBA

### September 19 TBA

### September 24 Social Change in Northern Resource Dependent Communities

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

Mitchell, C. J. A., & O'Neill, K. 2016. "Tracing economic transition in the mine towns of northern Ontario: An application of the "resource-dependency model"." *Canadian Geographer-Geographe Canadien*, 60(1), 91-106.

### September 26 Social Change in Northern Aboriginal Communities

\*Ritsema, R., Dawson, J., Jorgensen, M., & Macdougall, B. 2015. "Steering Our Own Ship?" An Assessment of Self-Determination and Self-Governance for Community Development in Nunavut. *Northern Review* (41), 205-228.

Aslaksen, Julie et al. 2008 "Interdependency of Subsistence and Market Economies in the Arctic", in *The Economy of the North*, edited by Solveig Glomsrød and Iulie Aslaksen. Oslo: SSB. Found at [http://www.ssb.no/a/english/publikasjoner/pdf/sa112\\_en/kap6.pdf](http://www.ssb.no/a/english/publikasjoner/pdf/sa112_en/kap6.pdf)

## **Part Two: Major Challenges**

### **October 1 Women in the North**

\*Williamson, Karla Jessen et al. 2004. "Chapter 11 Gender Issues" Pp. 187-205 in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <https://www.sdwg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Arctic-Human-Development-Report-2004.pdf>

Kleinfeld, Judith and Andrews, J.J. 2006. "The gender gap in higher education in Alaska.", *Arctic*, 59( 4): 428-434. Found at <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic59-4-428.pdf>

### **October 3 Climate Change and the North**

\*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](https://www.jstor.org/stable/40512620?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

### **October 8 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.

Abele, F. 1987. "Canadian Contradictions: Forty Years of Northern Political Development." *Arctic*, 40(4), 310-320. Found at <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic40-4-310.pdf>

### **October 10 Education in the North**

\*Hirshberg, D. and Petrov, A. 2014 "Education and Human Capital" Pp. 347-395 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](http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/IA_1-2005.pdf)

## **Study Break**

### **October 22 Mid-term Test and Learning Journals due**

### **October 24 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)

### **October 29 Food Security**

\*Inuit Circumpolar Council-Canada. 2012 *Food Security across the Arctic: Background paper of the Steering Committee of the Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy*. Ottawa: ICC Canada. Found at <https://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/project/food-security-across-the-arctic/>

### **October 31 Globalization and the North**

\*Keskitalo, E.C.H. and Southcott, C. 2014 “Globalization.” Pp. 397-421 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. 2010 “History of Globalization in the Circumpolar North: An Introduction” in *Globalization and the Circumpolar World*, edited by L. Heininen, and C. Southcott, Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2010. (Course website).

**November 5 Mining 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>

**November 7 Dealing with the Resource Curse**

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)

**November 12 The Viability of Northern Communities**

\*Rasmussen, R.O. et al. 2014 “Community Viability and Adaptation.” Pp. 423-474 in *The Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages*, edited by J. Nyman-Larson and G. Fondahl. Copenhagen: Nordic Council of Ministers.

**November 14 The Notion of Sustainable Development and Northern Communities**

\*Duerden, F. 1992 “A critical look at sustainable development in the Canadian North” *Arctic* 45(3) pp. 219-25. Found at <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic45-3-219.pdf>

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

**November 19 Migration and Northern Communities**

\*Hamilton, L. C., Saito, K., Loring, P. A., Lammers, R. B., & Huntington, H. P. (2016). “Climigration? Population and climate change in Arctic Alaska.” *Population and Environment*, 38(2), 115-133. (Course website)

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

**November 21 TBD**

**November 26 TBD**

**November 28 Review**

\* Indicates Required Reading