

Lakehead University
Department of Sociology

Sociology 4113 FA
Sociology of the North

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Fall 2019
Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:30 pm
Room: RB3027

Office Hours

Tuesdays 1:00 to 2:00 pm or 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 education, health, environmental, political, economic, 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 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 October 9th to be completed and handed in by October 23st. 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 October 23rd. 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 December 7, 2017. 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

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-ccel/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. Heininen 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, 4th 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

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. 1987. "Canadian Contradictions: Forty Years of Northern Political Development", *Arctic*, 40 (4): 310-320.

Part Two: Major Challenges

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>

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>

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

Session 8 Education Issues in the Canadian North

Berger, P. (2009). "Eurocentric roadblocks to school change in Nunavut." *Études Inuit Studies* 33(1/2): 55-76.

Douglas, A. S. (2009). "'It's like they have two parents": Consequences of inconsistent socialisation of Inuit children." *Études Inuit Studies* **33**(1/2): 35-54.

McGregor, H. E. (2012). "Nunavut's Education Act: education, legislation, and change in the Arctic." *Northern Review*(36): 27+.

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.

Gerlach, S. C. L., P. A. (2013). Rebuilding northern foodsheds, sustainable food systems, community well-being, and food security. *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* **72**: 87-90.

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

Session 10 Presentations

Session 11 Presentations

Session 12 Presentations and Review