

GEOG 3501: Geographies of the Canadian North

Winter 2025

Tuesdays, 11:35am – 2:25pm

****Course outline for web. Full syllabus provided in class****

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Overview:

This course involves learning about the Canadian North but also questioning the kinds of knowledges that are produced and circulated about northern peoples and lands. We will begin by examining a range of knowledge traditions through which outsiders have made sense of the Arctic and Subarctic, including exploration, art and culture, anthropology, and science. We'll consider how these systems of knowledge informed (and continue to inform) colonial, capitalist, and nation-building processes in Canada, and consider northern Indigenous peoples' responses to these processes and ideas, as well as Indigenous knowledges and practices that do not primarily refer to outsiders. To do so, we will engage in a process of "learning to learn" how to engage with northern Indigenous knowledge systems, with particular emphasis on the works of northern Indigenous intellectuals, artists, political leaders, and harvesters. We will then examine some contemporary issues shaping life in the contemporary Arctic and Subarctic, including struggles over land, title and jurisdiction, wildlife and wildlife management, resource extraction, health and healing, and climate change.

Emphasis will be placed on class discussion and on the assigned readings, which will be discussed each week and integrated into exams and assignments.

Course Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain critical geographic approaches and their relevance to understanding the Canadian North;
- Identify key geographical features in the region;
- Describe and critically analyze northern histories, societies, lands, and contemporary issues;
- Demonstrate a capacity to engage sensitively and respectfully with Indigenous systems of knowledge and practice, and appreciate their importance for understanding the Canadian North;
- Deconstruct oral, written, and visual representations of the North.

Course Readings:

- Are available online in the ARES system. Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Course Schedule and Topics

January 7: Introduction

January 14: Critical approaches to the North

January 21: Learning to Learn: Indigenous Knowledge Systems

January 28: Anthropology, Culture, and Tradition

February 4: Science
 February 11: Sovereignty
 February 18: READING WEEK - NO CLASS
 February 25: ONLINE Midterm Exam
 March 4: Land claims and treaties
 March 11: Extractive vs Mixed Economies
 March 18: Health and Healing
 March 25: NO CLASS
 April 1: Climate Change
 April 8: Review session and take-home exam distributed

<h2>Evaluation</h2>

In-Class Writing Exercises and Map Quiz (20%)

- There will be 1 in-class map quiz (worth 10%, **January 28**), and 2 in-class writing exercises (worth 10% total; **February 11** and **March 18**).

Midterm Exam (25%) – Online, February 25

In-Class Participation (10%)

Weekly reading notes (10%).

- Notes may be submitted for readings on the following seven dates: **Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 28, Feb 4, Mar 4, Mar 11, Mar 25**. Students who submit more than four reading notes can drop their lowest mark(s). If you submit and pass 4 you will receive full marks.

Take-Home Final Exam (35%) – Due 9:00am, April 26, 2025

- The final exam will be a take-home exam. The exam will be distributed on April 8 and content relevant to the final exam will be presented in class that day. Additional details will be provided in class.

<h2>Course Policies</h2>

Grades:

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred (see below)

FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam

Standing in a course is determined by the course Instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the Instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean. Standing in the course will be shown by alphabetical grades.

Laptops and Cellphones: Laptop and cellphone policies are designed to encourage a productive, engaging, and positive learning environment for all students. I understand that some students prefer to type notes rather than write notes using a pen and paper. Responsible use of laptops is permitted, although students are encouraged to put laptops away during class discussions and to take notes using pen and paper.

Students using their laptops to check email, social media, or other non-course related activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home. Cell phones are not permitted in class. If you are expecting an urgent call, please ensure the ringer is off and please step outside. If you require use of a laptop for other reasons, please discuss this with the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Students are reminded of the seriousness with which Carleton University treats academic dishonesty of any form, particularly plagiarism.

The University Academic Integrity Policy (<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>) defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission or assessed content prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course. ***It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the regulations concerning academic integrity and to ensure that your course work conforms to the principles of academic integrity.***

Statement on generative AI (i.e., ChatGPT):

Any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards, as noted above. This includes not just your written assignments (i.e., reading responses, in-class writing exercises, exams) but also your oral contributions to class (contributions to class discussion, oral presentations, and other forms of oral participation). Using generative AI tools in this course undermines

the development of core academic skills your assignments are meant to support, including reading and comprehension skills, critical analysis skills, and effective oral and written communication skills. Use of generative AI could result in a mark of “0” on the assessed content or referral to the Associate Dean for potential violation of Carleton’s academic integrity policy.

Statement on Student Mental Health: As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/> or the options below:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus)

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

Lateness and Missed Class Policy: Attendance is mandatory in this class. Late arrival and early departure from class will impact participation grades. Students who miss class will not be given make up assignments or activities. Students who miss the midterm will not be permitted to write a make-up exam (except in cases of emergency). Late assignments or exams will be deducted 5% per day, including weekends and holidays. Students assume all risk for lost or missing materials. Please be sure to keep a back-up electronic copy of your assignments.

Extenuating Circumstances: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with extenuating circumstances (i.e. out of your control). Any requests for deadline extensions should be made to the instructor in advance of the deadline, where possible. In case of missed deadlines due to unforeseen circumstance, a medical note (or other applicable form of documentation, including Carleton’s self-declaration form) should be provided within 5 days of the missed deadline in order to negotiate new deadlines. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require accommodation for any other reasons.

Academic Accessibility and Accommodations: This course is intended for all Carleton students, including those with mental, physical, or cognitive disabilities, illness, injuries, impairments, or any other condition that can affect one’s equal access to education. If, at any point in the term, you find yourself not able to fully access the space, content, and experience of this course, you are encouraged to contact me by email, phone, or during office hours to discuss your specific needs.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Additional Resources: There are a variety of ways to get help if you are having difficulties with any of the course material, or managing to meet the requirements of a number of courses at once. In addition to support I can offer you as the course instructor, there are a number of support services and resources available on campus, including: The Centre for Student Academic Support (<https://carleton.ca/csas/>) to help you in achieving academic success in various aspects of your university program; Carleton Writing Services (<https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>) to help you improve your writing skills; and The MacOdrum Library (www.library.carleton.ca) which offers library, research, learning, and IT support. Free counselling is available to students through Health and Counselling Services (<https://carleton.ca/health/counselling-services/>). See also the mental health resources listed above.