

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE
GEOG 3501: Geographies of the Canadian North
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Emilie Cameron
Loeb A301E
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Overview:

This course provides a critical introduction to Canada's northern regions. By "critical" I mean that we will be challenging established southern understandings of the North and operating under the assumption that all knowledge is geographically and historically situated. We will begin by critically engaging 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 Inuit, Dene, and other northern Indigenous peoples' responses to these processes and ideas, as well as Indigenous knowledges and practices that do not primarily refer to outsiders. We will then examine some of the primary struggles playing out 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 multimedia.

This course places a heavy emphasis on the assigned readings – we will discuss them each week and you will be expected to draw on them in your exams and assignments. It also places a heavy emphasis on participation and engagement.

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 think critically about northern histories, societies, lands, and contemporary issues;
- Engage 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:

- Will be available as a Coursepack at Octopus Books

Evaluation (Tentative; subject to change **)**

- In-Class Quizzes and Reading Responses (15%)
- Weekly Reading Notes (10%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Participation (25%)
- Take-Home Final Exam (35%)

**** Full syllabus will be available September 2018 ****