

GEOG 3501: Geographies of the Canadian North

Winter 2020

Instructor: Andrew Thompson
Location: SA 309
Time & Date: Thursdays 14:30-17:30
Office Hours: By Appointment
Email: AndrewD.Thompson@cunet.carleton.ca
Phone: 613-606-9188*

* I prefer to be contacted by email. Please include the course code ("GEOG3501") in the subject.

Overview

The Canadian North is heavily storied and imagined from outside the region, despite the fact that very few policy-makers, scholars, corporations, journalists, artists, and other knowledge producers have any direct experience with the region. For outsiders, the North is known primarily as a site of national identity, as an "untapped" source of resource wealth, as a future shipping corridor, as a strategic geopolitical region, as a symbol of climate change, as a land of "unspoiled" nature, and as the home of Indigenous peoples who are alternately idealized for their "tradition" or their social suffering. And yet it is also known and matters in ways that challenge and disrupt these understandings, and in ways that tend not to figure in dominant discourses about the region.

This class will provide an overview of the northern regions in Canada (historical context, physical environment, cultures, resource management, etc.), and critically interrogate the dominant discourse surrounding northern lands and peoples. Our goal will be to understand how and why particular ideas about northern lands and peoples were and are produced, whose interests they advance, and how these ideas are being challenged and rewritten. At a time when the very notion of "truth" is being questioned and challenged in new ways, we will explore the tensions between critical theoretical traditions that reject the concept of truth altogether, and political efforts to claim authority over what is "true" in and about the North.

We will begin by examining a range of knowledge traditions through which outsiders have made sense of the Arctic and Subarctic, including exploration, 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. 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 of the main 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 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:

- Understand 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; and
- Deconstruct oral, written, and visual representations of the North;

Course Readings:

Each week there will be a selection of required and optional readings. All readings will be available online through the Carleton Library or CuLearn. While there is no one text for this course, we will read many chapters of the following:

Bone, Robert M. (2016). The Canadian North (5th edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Semester Schedule

January 9th

**** No class – CANCELLED ****

January 16th

Introduction & Using critical theory to understand the north

January 23rd

**** Map Quiz ****

**** Guest Lecture – Dr. Chris Burn ****

January 30th

Exploration and Encounter

**** Guest Speaker ****

February 6th

Anthropology, Tradition, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

**** In Class Reading Response ****

February 13th

Sovereignty

February 20th

Reading Week – No Class

February 27th

**** MIDTERM EXAMINATION ****

March 5th

Land claims, Treaties, and Resource Co-Management

**** Guest Speakers – Ms. Kaitlin Wilson & Ms. Allison Thompson (Wildlife Management Advisory Council – North Slope) ****

March 12th

Health and Healing

**** In Class Reading Response ****

**** Guest Speaker ****

March 19th

Climate Change

**** Guest Speaker – Mr. Ryan Davis (Yukon Government Climate Change Secretariat) ****

March 26th

Resource Extraction

**** In Class Reading Response ****

April 2nd

Review & take home exam distributed (Last Class)

Evaluations

Evaluation	Value (%)
<i>In-Class Quiz</i>	5
<i>In-Class Reading Responses</i>	10
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	25
<i>Participation</i>	25
<i>Take Home Final Exam</i>	35
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

In-Class Quiz (5%)

There will be 1 map quiz (worth 5%, **January 23rd**).

In-Class Reading Responses (10%)

There will be 3 in-class reading responses (worth 3.3% each; **February 6th, March 12th, and March 26th**).

Midterm Exam (25%)

In class, February 27

The midterm will emphasize course readings, lecture materials, and discussion up to and including **February 13**. Additional details will be provided in class.

Participation (25%)

Participation is a **crucial component** of this class.

In-class participation (15%) includes attendance, doing thorough and critical readings of the assigned materials, contributing effectively in class discussions, and responding to your peers' effectively.

Weekly reading notes (10%). Most weeks, students are required to post 150-300 word notes responding to the assigned readings. These responses will consist of a short personal reflection on the piece. Notes are due by 10pm on **Tuesdays** (i.e., **two days before class**) and evaluated on a pass/fail basis (each worth 2%). Notes are to be submitted on the following dates: **January 21, January 28, February 11, March 3, and March 17.**

Take-Home Final Exam (35%)

Due 9:00am, 25 April 2020, at the Geography Department Dropbox

The final exam will be a take-home exam. The exam will be distributed in class on April 2nd and content relevant to the final exam will be presented in class that day. Additional details will be provided in class.

Course Policies

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, Facebook, or other non-course related activities will be asked to leave their laptops at home. The use of phones is 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.

Carleton defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism 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." Students are reminded of the seriousness with which Carleton University treats academic dishonesty of any form, particularly plagiarism. Students should be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy (<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy1.pdf>), and should not hesitate to speak with the Instructor if they have any questions. 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.

Lateness and Missed Class Policy: Attendance is crucial in this class. Students who miss class without medical documentation will not be permitted to write make-up quizzes or reading responses. Late final exams will be deducted 10% per day, including weekends and holidays. The final exam must be handed in directly to the Instructor or placed in the **Geography department drop box** by 9am April 25, 2020.

Email submissions will **NOT** be accepted unless pre-arranged with the Instructor. In the case of late submission, emailed versions will be accepted on weekends and holidays as proof of submission, and paper versions must be provided to the instructor on the next business day. 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 must be made to the Instructor at least 5 business days prior to the deadline. In case of missed deadlines due to unforeseen circumstance, an official medical note (or other applicable form of documentation) must be provided within 5 days of the missed deadline in order to negotiate new deadlines. With the proper documentation accommodations will be considered, but are not guaranteed. If no documentation is provided, the resulting grade of a missed assignment or presentation will be zero.

Academic Accommodations: You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details use this form: <https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/>.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520- 6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for

accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

Course Readings: Course readings are available through the MacOdrum Library.

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/>).