GEOG 3501: Northern Lands
Winter 2014
Wednesdays 11:35am to 2:25pm
River Building 1200

Instructor: Dr. Emilie Cameron
Loeb A301D
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**Please note: I do not respond to emails on evenings and weekends**

Overview:

This course provides a critical introduction to Canada’s northern regions (Arctic and sub-arctic). By “critical”, I mean that we will be challenging established understandings of the North and operating under the assumption that all knowledge is geographically and historically situated. We will begin by critically engaging the concept of “North” and how outsiders have made sense of the Arctic and Subarctic through 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 a range of 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). Next, we will consider a series of topics spanning the social, cultural, economic, political, environmental, and physical geographies of the contemporary Arctic and Subarctic, including historic treaties and contemporary land claims, wildlife, 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;
- Understand and value 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 Schedule and Readings**

**All required readings are available in a Coursepack at Octopus Books**

Optional Readings are available online (*) through the Carleton library (or at URL indicated) or on CULearn

January 8: Introduction
- No assigned readings
January 15: Using critical theory to understand the North  
Required readings:  

January 22: Exploration and Encounter  
**MAP QUIZ**

Required readings:  

Optional readings:  

January 29: Anthropology  
Required Readings:  

Optional Readings:  

February 5: Sovereignty  
**In-class Reading Response #1**

Required Readings:  

Optional Readings:

**February 12: Science**  
**Guest: Dr. Chris Burn**

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

February 19: READING WEEK - NO CLASS

February 26: Midterm Exam (25%)

March 5: Land claims and treaties

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

March 12: Health and Healing  
**In-class Reading Response #2**  
**Guest: Jack Hicks**

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

- *Knotsch, C. & D. Kinnon. 2011. If Not Now... When? Addressing the Ongoing Inuit Housing Crisis in Canada (Key Findings). Ottawa: Inuit Tuttarvingat, National Aboriginal Health Organization (http://www.naho.ca/inuit/resources/)
- Tester, F. & P. McNicoll. 2004. Isumagijaksaq: mindful of the state: social constructions of Inuit suicide Social Science and Medicine, 58, 2625-2636

March 19: Climate Change

** Guest: Rebecca Mearns **

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


March 26: Mining, Oil, and Gas

**In-class Reading Response #3**

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


April 2: Review and Take-home exam distributed

** Take-Home Exam Distributed **

Evaluation

In-Class Quizzes and Reading Responses (15%)

- There will be 1 map quiz (worth 5%, January 22) and 3 in-class reading responses (worth 5% each; you have the option of dropping your lowest mark in the reading responses; February 5, March 12, and March 26).

Midterm Exam (25%) – In class, February 26
The midterm will emphasize course readings, lecture materials, and discussion up to and including February 12.

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 responses (10%). Each week, students are required to post 200-300 word responses to the assigned reading, using the feedback template. Responses are due at 9pm on Tuesdays (before class) and evaluated on a pass/fail basis (worth 2% each). Each week, 3-4 students will be assigned as “official” respondents and their weekly responses will be used to guide discussion in class. A sign-up sheet will be circulated on the first day of class.

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

- The final exam will be a take-home exam. The exam will be distributed in class on April 2.
- Additional details will be provided in class

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**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. Cell phones are not permitted in class. If you are expecting an urgent call, please ensure the ringer is off and please step outside.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://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. Students should be familiar with the [University’s Academic Integrity Policy](http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/), and should not hesitate to speak with the Instructor if you 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:** With the exception of the take-home final exam, most course activity takes place in class and attendance is crucial. 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 26**. 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 formal documentation) must be provided within 5 days of the missed deadline in order to negotiate new deadlines. Missed presentations must be accompanied by the same documentation, using the same protocol outlined above, and will result in the rescheduling of the presentation, or alternative arrangement, depending on the scheduled timing. *With the proper documentation these accommodations will be considered, but will not be guaranteed. If no documentation is provided, the resulting grade of a missed assignment or presentation will be zero.*

**Academic Accommodations:** Carleton University is committed to promoting academic accessibility for all individuals. Please feel welcome to bring any issues related to disability, religious, pregnancy, or other accommodation to my attention. For students with disabilities, contact the Paul Menton Centre (613-520-6608, http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/) to obtain the necessary letters of accommodations. For religious observances or pregnancy, consult with equity services (http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/), or an equity advisor (613-520-5622), to obtain the necessary letters of accommodation.

**Course Readings and Additional Resources:** Many readings are available through the library’s online journal subscriptions. Required readings have been compiled into a coursepack that is available at Octopus Books. Optional readings that are not available online will be posted on WebCT.

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. The Instructor is here to facilitate your learning, so take advantage of your opportunities for interaction and ask for help when needed. You are especially encouraged to attend designated office hours. There are also a number of support services and resources on campus at your disposal, including: The Student Academic Success Centre (www.carleton.ca/sasc) to help you in achieving academic success in various aspects of your university program; The Writing Tutorial Service (www.carleton.ca/wts) to help you improve your writing skills; and The MacOdrum Library (www.library.carleton.ca) which offers library, research, learning, and IT support.