GEOG 3501: Geographies of the Canadian North (Northern Lands)  
Fall 2015  
Thursdays 8:35 to 11:25 am  
Mackenzie Building (ME) 3165

Instructor: Joshua Gladstone  
T.A.: TBA

Loeb A209  
Office Hours: Thurs., 11:45am-12:45pm  
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Overview:

This course provides a critical introduction to Canada’s northern regions (Arctic and Subarctic). 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 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 course pack at Octopus Books--
Optional Readings are available online (*) through the Carleton library (or at URL indicated) or on CULearn

September 3: Introduction
No assigned readings

September 10: Understanding the North
Required readings:

September 17: Exploration and Encounter

**MAP QUIZ**

Required readings:

Optional readings:

September 24: Anthropology
Required Readings:
Optional Readings:


October 1: Sovereignty

**In-class Reading Response #1**

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


October 8: Science

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


October 15: Midterm Exam (25%)

October 22: Land claims and treaties

** Guest: TBA **

**In-class Reading Response #2**

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

OCTOBER 29: READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

November 5: Health and Healing

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

November 12: Climate Change

Required Readings:
Optional Readings:

November 19: Mining, Oil, and Gas

**In-class Reading Response #3**

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

November 26: 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%, September 17) and 3 in-class reading responses (worth 5% each; you have the option of dropping your lowest mark in the reading responses: October 1, October 22, and November 19).

Midterm Exam (25%) – In class, October 15
- The midterm will emphasize course readings, lecture materials, and discussion up to and including October 8.
- 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%). Each week, students are required to post 200-300 word notes to CULearn responding to the assigned reading, using the article worksheet as a guide. Notes are due no later than 5pm on Wednesdays and evaluated on a pass/fail basis (worth 2% each). Please note that late reading notes will not be evaluated and will receive an automatic fail. Each week, 3-4 students will be assigned as “official” respondents and their weekly notes 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, December 21
• The final exam will be a take-home exam. The exam will be distributed in class on November 26.
• 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 cell phones is 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). 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 deposited on CULearn by 9am December 18.
Email and hard copy submissions will NOT be accepted. 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 re-scheduling 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/](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/](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](http://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](http://www.carleton.ca/wts)) to help you improve your writing skills; and The MacOdrum Library ([www.library.carleton.ca](http://www.library.carleton.ca)) which offers library, research, learning, and IT support.

**Intellectual Property**

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the
author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Email and Office Hours
I am pleased to make myself available to answer questions about the course or course material during office hours (Thursdays from 11:45 to 12:45, Loeb A209). I will respond to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends when my response time may be longer.