



**Carleton University, Department of Geography
& Environmental Studies**
Winter 2009
GEOG 3501A: Northern Lands

Catalogue Description (from Academic Calendar)

The physical characteristics, historical geography, economic resources, settlement patterns and problems and the future development of Arctic and Subarctic lands, focusing primarily on Canada.

Course Overview (Instructor's additional description)

This course provides an introduction to Canada's northern regions (Arctic and sub-arctic), with particular emphasis placed on the importance of understanding (and balancing) human-environment interactions in this unique natural and cultural realm. In recent decades, the Canadian North has undergone remarkable social, economic, political and environmental transformations. Therefore, this course will provide an overview of the physical environment, historical context, demographics and socio-economic conditions, and Aboriginal rights and land claims, in order to provide the necessary background for discussions regarding social, cultural, and economic development within changing biophysical and political climates.

Prerequisites

Students must have third-year standing, or permission of the Department, to enroll in this course.

Instructor

Gita J. Laidler, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1 - 3pm

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Phone: (613) 520-2600 x2566

Website: <http://www.straightupnorth.ca/Sikuliriji/Teaching.html>

Teaching Assistant

Karen Kelley is the teaching assistant assigned to this course. She will be helping to mark exams and assignments, as well as to facilitate in-class group work and discussions. She will provide you her contact information during the first class, as well as posting it on WebCT.

Communications

Wherever possible course content, materials, lecture outlines, reserved readings, online discussion groups and additional information will be posted and communicated using **Carleton WebCT**. However, email communications will be maintained through the **connect mail** program, so please include the course number in the subject line of any course-related emails (i.e. GEOG3501 - *subject of email*).

Lectures

Room: B146 Loeb Building

Time: Tuesdays, 6 - 9pm

Learning Objectives

The main goal of this course is to introduce various physical and social dimensions of the Canadian North. Students will learn about:

1. considerations in defining the Canadian “north”
2. basic physical geography of arctic terrestrial and marine environments
3. key events in the chronology of Aboriginal land use and occupancy, arctic exploration, government intervention/support, and the negotiation of land claims
4. northern demographics and socio-economic conditions
5. Aboriginal rights and the settlement of land claims
6. cultural expression and knowledge (e.g. through art, oral history, land use, education)
7. economic development (mixed economies, tourism, mega-projects, environmental and social impacts)
8. implications of climate change
9. politics, governance, and international connections

Method of Instruction

- Lectures
- Audio/visual presentations
- Engagement with course materials, assignments, and group work

Readings

Course Text: Bone, Robert M. 2009. **The Canadian North** (3rd edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press.

The course text is available at **Haven Books** (43 Seneca Street, info@havenbooks.ca, www.havenbooks.ca). Additional required readings will be provided in the form of a **coursepack**, also available at Haven Books for a modest price, to supplement the material in the text. Other supplementary materials will be made available online through WebCT or on reserve at the Library.

These readings are meant to complement lecture materials, and provide more in-depth perspectives on topics presented in class and discussion groups. Be sure to complete required readings as suggested, in order to get the most out of class and discussion groups.

Evaluation

	Land claim profile (45%)
DUE January 27	Proposal (5%, group mark)
DUE March 3	Draft Report Sections (10%, individual mark)
DUE March 17	Poster presentation (10%, group mark)
DUE March 31	Final Report (20%, individual and group mark)
DUE February 24	Mid-term Exam (20%)
ongoing evaluation	Participation (10%) (mid-term evaluation provided March 3)
refer to exam schedule	Final Exam (25%)

Land claim profile - In groups of 5 (maximum), students are asked to work both individually and as a group to develop a comprehensive report on a northern land claim agreement of their choice. A selection of land claims will be provided to facilitate the profile choice, and groups will be determined by the students themselves. Groups are expected to investigate and analyze 5 important components influencing the signing of the land claim they have chosen to profile: i) historical context; ii) Aboriginal culture, beliefs, practices, and homelands; iii) environmental conditions; iv) known or potential economic development; and, v) political and socio-economic context. Students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to talk to other students early, to determine their interests in these different components, as each student in the group will be responsible for one section, in addition to contributing to group outputs.

Participation - The participation mark will comprise a combination of instructor/TA evaluation of each student's weekly contributions to class and group work (75%), as well as a self- and peer-evaluation component of each student's contributions to group work (25%).

Mid-term Exam - A multiple choice and short answer exam will be given part way through the term to evaluate general learning based on: i) the physical base (climate, marine, and terrestrial); ii) the history of key events, people, and institutions in the Canadian Arctic; iii) northern demographics and socio-economic conditions; and, iv) land claims and politics.

Final Exam - Students will be responsible for all lecture, reading, and group work materials for the whole term; however, the emphasis on the final exam will be more on the second half of the course, and on students' ability to integrate relevant themes covered in class when answering the exam questions. There will be a combination of short- and long-answer questions, and students will be provided a choice of questions to answer.

As outlined in the [Faculty Grading Guidelines](#) please note that: "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."

Lateness Policy: All assignments are due **during class**, on the date indicated in the **Evaluation** section. **Late penalties** will be calculated as follows:

- **5% penalty** (off the total assignment mark) - if the assignment is handed in before 5pm on the day after the due date
- **10% penalty** (off the total assignment mark) - if the assignment is handed in after the due date, but before 5pm on Friday of that same week
- **20% penalty** (off the total assignment mark) - if the assignment is handed in during class on the week following the due date
- After being 1 week overdue, the assignment will not be accepted, and will result in a grade of zero.

NOTE: It is recommended that you hand in all assignments directly to the Instructor (**email submissions are NOT accepted**). If you use the Geography drop box (B342 Loeb) be sure to clearly indicate the course number and the instructor's name (not just TA's name) to ensure prompt delivery to the appropriate mailbox. Students assume all risk for lost or missing materials, so be sure to **keep a back-up electronic copy** of all assignments.

Any requests for deadline extensions for writing assignments must be made to the instructor at least **5 business days prior to the deadline** (and communicated to your group at the same time). In case of missed deadlines **due to illness**, provision of **an official medical note** within 5 days of the missed deadline is essential in order to negotiate new deadlines. A missed mid-term exam, **accompanied with an official medical note**, will result in the re-weighting of the final exam to include the mid-term exam percentage (i.e. the final exam would then be worth 45% of the student's total course mark). 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 exam will be zero.

Academic Dishonesty: 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** (www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic_integrity/docs/Academic_Integrity_Policy.pdf), and do not hesitate to speak with the Teaching Assistant or instructor if you have any questions - BEFORE handing in the assignment in question.

Requests for Academic Accommodations: Please inform the instructor if you have any accessibility or academic accommodation issues that may require alternative teaching or examination considerations. For **students with disabilities**, contact the Paul Menton Centre (x6608) to obtain letters of accommodations. For **religious observances** or **pregnancy**, consult with equity services (www.carleton.ca/equity), or an equity advisor (x5622), to obtain letters of accommodation.

In ALL cases, it is important to negotiate special arrangements well in advance of exams or assignment deadlines.

Course Lecture Schedule (Winter 2009)

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Assignments
1	Jan 6	Course overview, defining the Canadian "north"	description and expectations for group land claim profile report
2	Jan 13	The physical base - climate and marine	
3	Jan 20	The physical base - terrestrial	
4	Jan 27	History of key events, people, and institutions in the Canadian Arctic	Report proposal DUE
5	Feb 3	Northern demographics and socio-economic conditions	
6	Feb 10	Aboriginal rights and comprehensive land claims	
7	Feb 17	Reading Week	
8	Feb 24	NO LECTURE, MID-TERM EXAM IN CLASS	Mid-term exam
9	Mar 3	Cultural expression and knowledge	Draft report sections DUE , mid-term participation mark
10	Mar 10	Economic development (people, environment, resources)	
11	Mar 17	Megaprojects and their impacts	Poster presentations DUE
12	Mar 24	Northern environments and people in a changing climate	
13	Mar 31	Politics, governance, and international connections	Final Report DUE

The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics and schedule during the term.