

**Lakehead University**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 2817 WA**  
**Sociology of the North**

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**Fall 2013**  
**Tuesdays: 4 pm – 5:30 pm**  
**Thursdays: 4 pm – 5:30 pm**  
**Room: RC1002**

**Office Hours**

**Tuesdays: 1:00 to 2:00 and Thursdays 1:00 to 2:00** (or by appointment)

**Course Objective:**

This course is designed to provide students with a general knowledge of the sociological characteristics and social issues of the Circumpolar North. It starts with a general introduction to the region and by trying to answer the question “What is the Circumpolar North?”. Students are then introduced to the general environmental and social characteristics of the region and more specifically to the two main types of communities in the region: Aboriginal communities and resource-dependent communities. Emphasis is given to the types of changes that are currently affecting the region.

The second part of the course will examine the major social challenges facing Northern communities. These challenges include education, health, environmental, political, and gender-related issues.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the specific sociological characteristics and social issues associated with the Circumpolar North.
2. Describe the various definitions of the Circumpolar North.
3. List and describe the main types of communities in the Circumpolar North and the recent changes that these communities are experiencing.
4. Describe the Circumpolar North’s main economic activities as well as explain how changes in these activities have impacted aboriginal and resource-dependent communities.
5. Communicate the major social challenges that Northern communities face including education, health, environmental, political, and gender-related issues.
6. Collect and evaluate secondary-sources in order to address issues and questions related to the Circumpolar North.

**Texts:**

There will be no required texts. Students will be required to read articles placed in the reserve or to be downloaded off the internet. Many of the articles used in the course are chapters in the Arctic Human Development Report which can be accessed at the sites

indicated in the reading list. Please download them and print them out if you prefer reading printed material.

**Basis of Evaluation:**

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Learning journals ..... | 15% |
| Mid-term Test .....     | 15% |
| Participation.....      | 10% |
| Research Paper.....     | 30% |
| Final Exam.....         | 30% |

**Learning journals:** Participants will be asked to submit a learning journal on October 17, 2013. The learning journal should contain reflective comments on material dealt with in 9 separate classes and should contain a research question and bibliography for their research paper. Each reflective comment should be a coherent statement on something you learned in the lecture, the reading, film, or other component of the course. It should be a critical reflection on something you learned through these components. For a description of the learning journal marking scheme please see the Learning Journal Rubric posted on the course website.

**Research Paper:** Participants will be required to write a 12-15 page (3000 word) research paper on a contemporary northern social issue. Topics should be chosen in consultation with the professor. Participants will submit a research question and bibliography as part of their learning journal. The completed paper is due on November 28, 2013. Research papers should use the manuscript format suggested by the American Sociological Association.

Please note that plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Calendar. For advice to avoid plagiarism please see <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>

**Participation:** For a description of the participation marking scheme please see the Class Participation Rubric posted on the course website. The discussion mark for the first half of the course will be provided to participants along with the results for the mid-term test.

**Mid-term Test:** Participants will be required to write an in-class test on October 24, 2013.

**Final Exam:** The Final Exam will be given during the Exam period.

# Course Structure and Readings

## September 10 Introduction to the course (Film)

### Part One: Concepts and basic structures

#### September 12 Defining the North: the Social Construction of a Region

\*Young, Oran and Einarsson, Niels, 2004. "Chapter 1 Introduction: Human Development Report" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional reading: Hamelin, Louis-Edmond. 1978. "Chapter 2", *Canadian Nordicity: Its Your North Too*, Montreal: Harvest House.

#### September 17 Northern Societies and Social Change

\*Czonka, Yvon and Schweitzer, Peter. 2004 "Chapter 3 Societies and Cultures: Change and Persistence" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional Reading: Nuttall, Mark. 2000. *The Arctic is Changing*. Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri, Iceland Retrieved from <http://www.thearctic.is/articles/overviews/changing/enska/index.htm>.

#### September 19 Population Dynamics in the Circumpolar World

\*Bogayavlenskiy, Dmitry and Siggner, Andy, 2004. "Chapter 2 Arctic Demography" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*, 2004. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional reading: Duhaime, Gerard and Caron, Andre. 2008. "Economic and Social Conditions in Arctic Regions" in *The Economy of the North*, edited by Solveig Glomsrød and Iulie Aslaksen. Oslo: SSB. Found at [http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/30/sa\\_economy\\_north/sa112\\_en/oversikt\\_en.html](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/30/sa_economy_north/sa112_en/oversikt_en.html)

#### September 24 Social Change in Northern Resource Dependent Communities

\*Southcott, C. 2001 "Social Change in Northern Resource Dependent Communities in the North" University of the Arctic BCS331, Module 5. Found at [www.uarctic.org/BCS331mod5\\_BGnko.pdf](http://www.uarctic.org/BCS331mod5_BGnko.pdf).file

#### September 26 Social Change in Northern Aboriginal Communities

\*Caulfield, Richard. 2004. "Resource Governance" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional reading: Aslaksen, Julie et al. 2008 "Interdependency of Subsistence and Market Economies in the Arctic", in *The Economy of the North*, edited by Solveig Glomsrød and Iulie Aslaksen. Oslo: SSB. Found at [http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/30/sa\\_economy\\_north/sa112\\_en/oversikt\\_en.html](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/30/sa_economy_north/sa112_en/oversikt_en.html)

## October 1 Film: Oil on Ice

## October 3 TBA

## October 8 TBA

## October 10 TBA

## October 15 Major Economic Activities in Northern Communities

\*Duhaime, Gerard. 2004. "Chapter 4 Economic Systems" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

## **Part Two: Major Challenges**

### **October 15 Women in the North**

\*Williamson, Karla Jessen et al. 2004. "Chapter 11 Gender Issues" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional Reading: Kleinfeld, Judith and Andrews, J.J. 2006. "The gender gap in higher education in Alaska.", *Arctic*, 59( 4): 428-434. Found at <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic59-4-428.pdf>

### **October 17 Climate Change and the North**

\*Arctic Council, "Context and Executive Summary", *Impacts of a Warming Arctic: Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Overview Report*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 2-20. Found at <http://amap.no/acia/>

Optional Reading: Duerden, Frank. 2004. "Translating Climate Change Impacts at the Community Level." *Arctic*, 57(2) : 204-212. Found at <http://arctic.synergiesprairies.ca/arctic/index.php/arctic/article/viewFile/496/526>

### **October 22 Political Changes in the North**

\*Broderstad, Else Grete and Dahl, Jens. 2004. "Chapter 5 Political Systems" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*, 2004. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional Reading: Arctic Council. *Declaration of the Establishment of the Arctic Council*. Found at <http://www.arctic-council.org/establ.asp> .

### **October 24 Mid-term Test**

### **October 29 Education in the North**

\*Johansson, Gunilla, Paci, Chris and Hovdenak, Sylvi Stenersen. 2004. "Chapter 10 Education" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*, 2004. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

Optional Reading: Hicks, Jack. 2005. "Education in the Canadian Arctic: What Difference has the Nunavut Government Made?" *Indigenous Affairs*, 1. Found at <http://www.iwgia.org/sw7825.asp>

### **October 31 Health Issues in the North**

\*Hild, Carl M. and Stordahl, Vigdis. 2004. "Chapter 9 Human Health and Well-being" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*, 2004. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

### **November 5 Globalization and the North**

\*Southcott, C. 2010 "History of Globalization in the Circumpolar North: An Introduction" in *Globalization and the Circumpolar World*, edited by L. Heininen, and C. Southcott, Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2010. Accessed at TBA

### **November 7 Dealing with the Resource Curse**

\*Banta, Russell 2006 "The Resource Curse and the Mackenzie Gas Project" *Policy Options*, December, Pp. 80-86. Found at <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/dec06/banta.pdf>

### **November 12 Mining in the Arctic**

\*Gibson, G. and Klink, J. "Canada's Resilient North: The Impact of Mining on Aboriginal Communities" *Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health* 3(1) pp. 115-139. Found at [http://landkeepers.ca/images/uploads/reports/3.1G\\_CanadasResilientNorth\\_.pdf](http://landkeepers.ca/images/uploads/reports/3.1G_CanadasResilientNorth_.pdf)

**November 14 The Sustainability of Arctic Communities**

\*Aarsæther, Nils, Riabova, Larissa and Bærenholdt, Jørgen Ole. 2004. "Chapter 8 Community Viability" in *The Arctic Human Development Report*. Found at <http://www.svs.is/AHDR/AHDR%20chapters/English%20version/Chapters%20PDF.htm>

**November 19 To be decided by class**

**November 21 To be decided by class**

**November 26 To be decided by class**

**November 28 Review**

\* Indicates Required Reading