

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT, EARTH, and RESOURCES**

Regular Session: 2015 - 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Department: Environment & Geography **Course No:** GEOG 3750 K01
Term: Winter **Course Title:** Northern Environments **Slot:** Tues/Thurs 10:00-11:15
Location: 323 Wallace Building **Instructor:** Dr. Jill Oakes **Office:** 464 Wallace Bldg.
Telephone: 474-7352 **E-mail:** jill_oakes@umanitoba.ca **Office Hours:** Tues after class by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course explores cultural adaptations of Aboriginal Peoples to the Arctic environment from a contemporary, historical and regional perspective. Circumpolar peoples, Inuit, Dene Metis and non-Aboriginal settlers' views are included within the parameters of this course. A mandatory field trip component (Jan 30th – 31st), experiential learning, group discussions and seminars are used to explore new insights.

Learning Objectives

To explore the cultural adaptations of Aboriginal peoples to the Arctic environment including:

- International or Circumpolar North,
- Wildlife and northern resources;
- Rights Issues: land, humans, wildlife
- Climate change: impact
- Northern Cultures and History
- Northern living
- Adaptation of non-Aboriginal settlers, Inuit and Dene to winter;
- Traditional knowledge and games;
- Formal and Informal economies;
- Health and spirituality;
- Relationships: work, community-based, north-south, inter and intra family
- Art, music, politics and education;
- Entertainment and Story Telling;
- Plants and their uses;
- Material culture;
- Survival/'Thrival';
- Mega-Projects and Development;
- History and Development of the North
- Education; and
- Food, shelter and clothing.

To gain an academic foundation for further study in Northern Studies and related fields.

To explore Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal world views.

To increase awareness and sensitivity to diversity in Northern perspectives.

Field Trip

All students will have an opportunity to build and sleep in an igloo or quin-zhee at a weekend field trip, January 30th – 31st. Attendance and a signed waiver is compulsory, penalty for violating these requirements may be immediate expulsion and a failure in the course.

The following texts are recommended readings:

- Bussidor, I. *Night Spirits*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.
- Lithman, Y., R. Riewe, R. Wiest and R. Wrigley (Eds.). 1992. *People and Land in Northern Manitoba*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.
- Wenzel, G. 1991. *Animal Rights, Human Rights: Ecology, Economy and Ideology in the Canadian Arctic*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Chow, L. & K. McKay (Eds.) 2010. *Hudson Bay Region Research*. Aboriginal Issues Press. University of Manitoba: Winnipeg. ISBN: 978-0-9738342-7-7
- Ellerby, J. 2009. *Working with Indigenous Elders*. Aboriginal Issues Press. University of Manitoba: Winnipeg. ISBN: 0-9738342-0-X
- Oakes, J., R. Riewe, K. Wilde, A. Edmunds, & A. Dubois. (Eds.) 2006. *Native Voices in Research*. Aboriginal Issues Press. University of Manitoba: Winnipeg. ISBN: 0-9686138-3-7
- Oakes, J. & R. Riewe (Eds.) *Human Dimensions of Climate Change: Traditional and Scientific Knowledge*. Aboriginal Issues Press. University of Manitoba: Winnipeg.
- Fortier, Louis, David Barber, & Josee Michaud. 2008. *On Thin Ice*. Aboriginal Issues Press. University of Manitoba: Winnipeg ISBN: 978-0-9738342-6-0

Evaluation + Due Dates

Speakers	3 Speakers + Reflections due following class	20%
Discussions	3 Discussions + Reflections due following class	20%
Oral Presentation	Due Jan 12 th – Apr 2 nd	20%
Material Culture Project	Begin Jan 19 th , Report/Short Story due March 31 st	20%
Participation	Due Jan 12 th – Apr 7 th	10%
Field Trip	Jan 30-31 and Reflections	10%

Defining “Northern Environments”

Arctic, Sub-Arctic, and Antarctic regions; with a focus on Canada and including other countries in the Circumpolar Region.

Late Assignments:

To be fair to all students, 10 marks per day will be deducted from assignments completed after the due date.

Bonus Marks:

Northern Community Spirit: Attend U of M Bison Ice Hockey home games and hand in a photo of yourself at the game, your ticket stub and a ½ page (point form) discussion on why hockey is so important in northern communities. Max 10 bonus points, 3 points per game.

Indigenous Material Culture Project and Report:

In class, create a pair of mittens using traditional Inuit/Dene patterns provided by Instructor and using recycled materials pooled together by classmates. While sewing in class, participate in games, questions, discussions raised by class presenters (Skype and In Person). Prepare a one-page (200 word) report reflecting on the meaning imbedded into your project; if appropriate, include reflections on meaning and importance communicated in Inuit/Dene/Cree/Anishinabe material culture learned throughout the course.

Discussions:

1. Three guest speakers will be scheduled throughout the term. Write a summary of the key points you learned from the guest speaker and hand it in the class after each speaker.
2. Three discussions or debates will be scheduled throughout the term, typically on the class following the speaker. On the class following each discussion or debate, hand in a one-page summary stating the key points you plan to present in the discussion, at least one reference, and your post discussion reflections.

Oral Presentation:

Choose a topic of your choice on northern environments and prepare a 10 minute presentation (power point/experiential learning exercise/role playing/debate/lesson plan/etc), game/challenge/activity and 5 minutes of questions. Include an outline, introduction (state why you are interested in this topic), professionally developed presentation of topic/activity, conclusion, references, visuals, game/learning activity and quiz/challenge.

The Grade Distribution for this course is as follows

A+	Exceptional	90-100
A	Excellent	80-89
B+	Very Good	75-79
B	Good	67-74
C+	Satisfactory	64-66
C	Adequate	57-63
D	Marginal	50-56
F	Inadequate	0-49

Attendance: Class attendance is compulsory. Students with excessive inexcusable absences are subject to debarment. Penalty for absence during the overnight field trip and or violating the waiver is immediate expulsion from the course and a failure in the course.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism and cheating and examination impersonation (see section in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar).

Penalties for Plagiarism: The common penalty for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or from all courses taught in a Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarised to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism. Please refer to the U of M General Calendar for additional information and to the handout more fully defining plagiarism passed out in this course outline and covered in class.

Appeals of Term Work: Term work grades may be appealed up to ten working days after the grades are made available to students. Please refer to U of M General Calendar for additional information.

Complaints: Generally a complaint by a student should be dealt with between the Professor and the student. If this cannot be done either party should go to the Department Head.

Voluntary Withdrawal: Marks will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal date as outlined in the U of M General Calendar.

The End