



The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 4708G TENTATIVE
Histories of the Circumpolar Norths :
“The Last Imaginary Places”

Fall/Winter 2019-2020
Wednesday 2:30- 4:30 STvH 3101

Instructor: Dr. Peter V. Krats

Office Hours: TBA
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Course Description:

This course examines the circumpolar Norths - Alaska, Kalaallit Nunaat, Nunavut, Siberia, Saami homelands and more. These regions have long been coveted by resource-hungry southerners and home to "Northerners", Indigenous and otherwise. Coverage includes indigenous lives, southern imperialism, and how various Norths were conceived and re-conceived in the South.

Prerequisite(s):

2.0 courses in History at the 2200 level or above.

Course Syllabus:

This course examines the history of regions long imagined as *Ultima Thule* -- the circumpolar norths -- a huge swath of land, water and ice including but not limited to Alaska; the Yukon and Northwest Territories, provincial norths and Nunavut in Canada; Kalaallit Nunaat; Iceland, the Faroes, Svalbards; the Saami homelands of Scandinavia and Russia; and the taiga and polar reaches of Siberian Russia.

These northern regions are considered both from “south looking north” and “north as homeland” perspectives. For Indigenous or long-term “settler society”, the circumpolar north was home – a complex place of diverse peoples and cultures who nonetheless shared many characteristics. For the temporary sojourner from the south, the norths were “exotic” places offering resource wealth to be taken home.

Beginning with a brief examination of “imagined” and physical norths, this course then introduces Indigenous societies and impositions by more peopled southern states. Southern approaches are examined, beginning with feeble, often fatal explorations followed by more influential economic, spiritual, judicial, political-administrative and environmental impacts. Southern culture, too, pushed north, although the norths also “pushed back,” with real and imagined norths serving as national symbols like the “True North Strong and Free.”

The course then considers more recent norths. While resource exploitation persisted, by the Second World War the Norths were deemed strategically important; increased foreign policy attention led to the persistent southern insistence on “our” norths, attitudes persisting in recent claims of the Arctic Ocean and even the North Pole! Such insistence contrasted with new attitudes toward Indigenous peoples that gradually challenged southern control: self-determination, land claims, and regional internationalism came into play.

In the end, then, students should better grasp the multilayered histories of the circumpolar norths, moving beyond imagined places to regions influenced by and influencing global history. These are large goals for a half-course -- the project relies heavily upon you and your classmates – I will expect student participation on a regular basis. Given the breadth of the coverage, that discussion should be informative, if at times challenging.

Course Materials: TENTATIVE

Potential Texts [not all of these will be texts; this is a sampling]

Charles Emerson. *The Future History of the Arctic*. Public Affairs. 2010

Dolly Jørgensen and Sverker Sörlin, eds. *Northscapes: History, Technology, and the Making of Northern Environments*, UBC Press, 2013.

John McCannon. *A History of the Arctic: Nature, Exploration and Exploitation*, 2010.

Other Key Works:

Shelagh Grant. *Polar Imperative: A History of Arctic Sovereignty in North America*. Douglas & McIntyre, 2010.

Lassi Heininen and Chris Southcott, eds. *Globalization and the Circumpolar North*. Alaska, 2010.

Robert McGhee. *The Last Imaginary Place: A Human History of the Arctic World*. Oxford, 2006

Yuri Slezkine. *Arctic Mirrors: Russia and the Small Peoples of the North*. Cornell, 1994

Richard Vaughan. *The Arctic: A History*. Rev. ed., History Press, 2008.

Methods of Evaluation: TENTATIVE

Participation	20 %
“Northern Journal”	10
Seminar “Lead”	5
Comparing Northern Approaches Paper	15
Essay Topic Proposal	5
Essay	35
Final	10

Potential Course Requirements:

Participation: (20 %) + “Lead” [5 %]

Students should contribute regularly and in an informed manner. Most weeks, one or more students will “take the lead,” helping to promote discussion and reporting on “bonus” material. [online or provided in class]. Focus on ideas; you need not reiterate the work. You should hand in notes on your Lead. Participation is obviously a vital component of your overall grade.

Northern Journal : (10 %)

Students should maintain a “journal” of their northern explorations. Keep track of ideas and information emerging from your readings and seminar discussions. At the end of the term, I will read your journals looking for consistency of effort and thought. These journals can be kept in electronic form and handed in that way. These journals, ideally, should help ease our travels through Ultima Thule.

Comparison of Southern Entries into the Norths (15 %):

Students will compare an aspect of the “entries” by Southern forces (administrative, economic, “exploratory”, even imaginative) into the various Norths dealt with in the first 5 weeks of the course. What are the similarities and differences? Do you see parallel approaches, or are the various “northern approaches” essentially unique? Students need not do extensive additional research – the goal here is consider the various historical experiences and historical assessments of the Norths that we have been discussing. Papers should be brief (5 pages maximum).

Comparative Research Essay: (5 [proposal] + 35 %) Considering Norths

Your essay should analyze some aspect of Circumpolar Northern history – that is to say, not “just” Canada’s or Russia’s or Finland’s north. Your Essay topic proposal must be submitted (1-2 pages). For the last class students will provide drafts of their paper for their peers to read / assess. We will provide constructive criticisms of the papers in class; this should result in better papers for all. Draft papers must be available for uploading online by the Friday before the “discussion” class. Good copies due tba. Final papers should meet high standards of research and presentation and (it really need not be said) be original work. Essays should be 15-18 pages

Final Examination: (10 %)

The Final will focus on broad themes shaping the Circumpolar North; either open book or take home [tba].

Course Schedule and Readings: Tentative

Section One: Introduction to the Circumpolar North

1. Introduction : North as Concept [in the South]
2. At Home in Northern Environments
3. “Circumpolarity” – Where and whose “North” – Southern reconsiderations ?

Section Two: Norths in Evolution

4. Contacts from the South - Southern Incursions through the 18th Century
5. “Crusades”: Southern Imperialism: 1800 – 1880
6. Seizing Fuller Control – Dealing with the Norths 1880-1945 [3 weeks]
 - a) Taking “Formal” Control
 - b) Taking Practical Control
 - c) The Second World War and the Norths

Section Three: The Circumpolar Norths since 1945

7. Expanding Administration / Exploitation of the Norths [2 weeks]
 - a) Cold War and Continuing Foreign Policy Struggles
 - b) Continued Government Impositions, Public and Private Exploitation and Consequences

8. Toward New Norths ?
9. Original Peoples & Modern Norths
10. Discussion of Essays / Conclusions.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please note: Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another

writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Accommodation for missed midterms with a Self Reported Absence:

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test on one of the two time slots available.

- Tests scheduled before February 14th – the makeup will take place Monday, February 24th at 9am.
- Tests scheduled between February 25th and March 25th – the makeup will take place Friday, March 27th at 1pm.

Students who fail to write a makeup test in one of these two time slots will receive a grade of zero.

Students should be aware that course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 72 hours after the SRA has been completed. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19th at 3pm, your new due date will be March 22nd at 3pm.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices may not be used in examinations.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.