

**APPLIED ARTS DIVISION**

**School of Liberal Arts  
Winter, 2016**



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ANTH 221**

**SUBARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY**

**45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS**

**PREPARED BY: Norman Easton**

**DATE: October 17 2015**

**APPROVED BY:**

**DATE:**

**APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**DATE:**

**RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**DATE:**



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**SUBARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Norman Alexander Easton   **OFFICE HOURS:** Mon-Thur 10:30 - Noon  
**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2410                      **CLASSROOM:** A2801  
**E-MAIL:** neaston@yukoncollege.yk.ca   **TIME:** 9 :00 - 10 :30 AM  
**TELEPHONE:** 668-8770 / 393-8012       **DATES:** TUESDAY & THURSDAY

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to current interpretations of the record of human occupations in the North American Subarctic with special emphasis on the western Subarctic, including Yukon and Alaska.

The first quarter of the course will review the current and past subarctic environment, the nature of indigenous social and cultural adaptations to the subarctic, the history of archaeological research in the subarctic, and special problems associated with recovering and interpreting the archaeological record in the subarctic.

The remainder of the course will present a chronological overview of subarctic prehistory from the earliest known evidence, dating from the Pleistocene, to the time of European contact. Students will review primary sources related to specific sites and major interpretive frameworks. They will also engage in a project that relates to local archaeological fieldwork.

**PREREQUISITES**

Second year standing in the School of Liberal Arts and successful completion of Anthropology 100. Anthropology 203 and 220 are also recommended.

**EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY**

CAMO ANTH 200 lev (3)	CAPU ANTH 2xx (3)	SFU ARCH 1xx (3)
TRU ANTH 2xx0 (3)	TRU-OL ARCH 2xx1 (3)	TWU ANTH 100 lev (3)
UBC Anth 2nd yr. (3)	UFV ANTH 1xx (3)	UVIC Anth 200-level (1.5)

UAF Anth elective (3)  
UNBC Anth 200-level (3)

UAS Anth elective (3)

UR Anth 200-level (3)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

1. Have a broad understanding of the environment and historic traditional cultures of the subarctic.
2. Have a broad understanding of the history of archaeological research in the subarctic, and specific challenges and responses to undertaking archaeology in high latitude environments.
3. Have specific understanding of Pleistocene climates and the oscillating existence and nature of Beringia.
4. Become familiar with a variety of theories relating to the occupation of high latitudes by humans and their migration into North America during the late Pleistocene.
5. Develop a chronological appreciation of the broad outlines of North American subarctic culture history.

## COURSE FORMAT

A combination of lectures and seminars will be used to explore concepts and data presented in the readings. Laboratory and museum studies will also be incorporated as individual term research projects.

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## RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### General Information

- All students are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions or concerns about the assignments and/or exams
- Requests for extensions must be made no less than three days before the due date
- One mark per calendar day will be deducted if the assignment is handed in after the due date unless an extension has been granted
- Each student must complete and submit a unique assignment separate from work submitted for credit in another class
- All written assignments must be double-spaced and typed using Times New Roman 12 point font on 8.5 x 11 page format. Spelling, grammar and content organization are reflected in the grade
- All written assignments will be submitted electronically via email to the instructor at [northeaston@gmail.com](mailto:northeaston@gmail.com) . Appropriate use of web-links within documents is encouraged

- The final examination will be written during the assigned examination period

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **Attendance & Participation**

Attendance is mandatory. All students will be expected to attend and actively participate in class and online discussions and activities, as assigned by the instructor. The material covered in the classroom is cumulative in nature, and missing classes may put students at a disadvantage. Attendance and participation will account for 10% of the student's final grade.

As per Academic Regulation 4.01, a student may be dismissed from a course if more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled contact hours are missed. Dismissal from a course may result in loss of full-time status and loss of sponsorship funding.

### **Assignments**

#### **Participation**

Value = 20 marks

Each of us brings unique experiences to our understanding of the readings and the topics. This mark will assess your weekly participation in the course in terms of your contributions of informed comments to the week's topic. A satisfactory performance level will demonstrate that you have read the assigned material and can relate it to the topic. A superior performance level will seek to integrate new knowledge with that already held or recently acquired. Archaeology is a subdiscipline of Anthropology and the integration of an anthropological perspective on the technological remains of the past is encouraged.

#### **Seminar Presentations**

Value = 40 marks

Each week a student will be responsible for the leadership of a seminar discussion of one of the week's assigned readings; this responsibility will rotate throughout the term and generally each student will be responsible for two to four readings through the course. A satisfactory performance level would include the posting of a short synopsis of the reading and discussion questions prior to class on the course web page, presentation of a critical commentary which relates the material to the week's topic and previous readings, and leading of an informed discussion during the video conference. A superior performance level would be achieved by stimulating further discussion within the class and by relating the readings to new, unassigned readings, or previous or recently acquired knowledge on the subject.

#### **Culture History Chart**

Value = 10 marks

Throughout the term students will be exposed to a variety of northern culture histories and details of specific major archaeological sites on the basis of which they

will develop their own culture history chart. This chart will form the basis for their final examination essay question and will be submitted to the instructor at the completion of the final exam.

### **Research Project**

Value = 50 marks

Early in the term students will be assigned a research project relevant to ongoing local archaeological fieldwork. The exact nature of any individual project will be developed in consultation with the instructor and may include working as a team or group with others, depending on the nature of the project chosen. Towards the end of the term you will be expected to present a short (15 minute) seminar on the nature and results of your project to the class and submit a short written version of your comments. Grading of the assignments will reflect: a) satisfactory completion of the work taken on by mutual agreement (25 marks); b) your seminar presentation (15 marks); and c) original or cogent contributions to the structure, application, or analysis of the project (10 marks).

### **Tests**

#### **Final Examination**

Value = 80 marks

A comprehensive final examination will be written during the designated college examination period. The exam will consist of a set of short answer questions related to assigned readings, true-false and multiple choice questions related to general aspects of subarctic archaeology, and a choice of short essay topics.

### **Other**

#### **6. Attendance and Participation**

Students will be evaluated on their attendance and participation in class discussions that demonstrates reading and reflection on assigned readings and ancillary materials.

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### **EVALUATION**

<b>Distribution of Marks Used for Student Evaluation</b>			
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Participation	Attendance and in class discussion	20	10%
Seminar Presentations	As Assigned	40	20%
Culture History Chart	Subarctic Chronology	10	5%
Research	Student's Choice	50 Marks	25%

Project/Paper			
Final Exam	Cumulative Evaluation	80 Marks	40%
<b>Total</b>		<b>200 Marks</b>	<b>100%</b>

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Selected Readings will be made available to participants by the instructor.

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the Academic Regulations:

[http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca//downloads/Yukon\\_College\\_Academic\\_Regulations\\_and\\_Procedures\\_-\\_August\\_2013\\_final\\_v1.pdf](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca//downloads/Yukon_College_Academic_Regulations_and_Procedures_-_August_2013_final_v1.pdf)

Attendance is integral to student success. Discussion and participation are particularly important in this class, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete any work assigned.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

## YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see <http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr>.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic

accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in Section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or [lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

## LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE

All students are encouraged to make the Lorene Robertson Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website:

[www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student\\_info/pages/writing\\_centre](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre).

## TOPIC OUTLINE

Week	Topic
1	Course Introduction Definition of Subarctic. Ecological vrs. Cultural. Overview of Subarctic paleo-ecology. Historic populations (linguistics and cultural).
2	Human adaptations to the Boreal Forest. Resources and strategies for survival. Human social and political organization in the subarctic. The ethnographic analogy.
3	History of Archaeological research. Special problems related to research in the subarctic. Group Seminar - Seminal Figures in Northern Archaeology
4	The early archaeological record in Western Beringia. Definition and time frame. Post-Glacial Climate Dynamics. Relevance of northeast Asia evidence. Early human migration(s) to North America.
5	The early archaeological record in Eastern Beringia. Alaskan and Yukon evidence. Chindadn-Nenana, Denali, Sluiceway, Mesa
6	Late Pleistocene - Early Holocene occupations in the Western Subarctic. Northern Cordilleran and Microblade Technologies.
7	Early Holocene Occupations in the Subarctic Shield. Northern Plano and Acasta.
8	Mid-Holocene occupations in the Western Subarctic. Northern Archaic and Northwest Microblade.
9	Mid-Holocene occupations in the Subarctic Shield. The Shield Archaic. Paleo-Eskimo.
10	The Late Prehistoric Period in the Western Subarctic. The Athapaskan Question.

11	The Late Prehistoric Period in the Subarctic Shield. Taltheilei, Laurel, Blackduck, and Selkirk.
12	Historic Archaeology in the Subarctic. Unresolved questions in Subarctic Archaeology.
13	Contemporary archaeological research in the Yukon. Oral History and Prehistory. The Yukon Land Claim and Archaeology. Directions for future research.
n.b. A week-by week reading list will be made available via email to participants by the course instructor.	