

APPLIED SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

NOST 201

Natural History of the North

3 Credits

Fall 2020



COURSE OUTLINE

NOST 201 NATURAL HISTORY OF THE NORTH

3 CREDITS

PREPARED BY: Larry Gray, Instructor

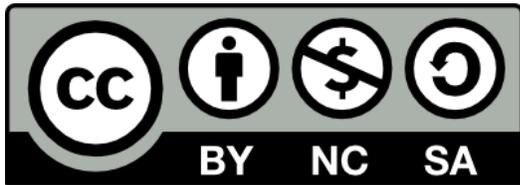
DATE: August 11, 2020

APPROVED BY: Joel Cubley, Chair, School of Science

DATE: October 5, 2020

APPROVED BY SENATE: Click or tap to enter a date

RENEWED BY SENATE: Click or tap to enter a date



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NOST 201

INSTRUCTOR: Larry Gray
OFFICE LOCATION: A2303
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TELEPHONE: 336-0370

OFFICE HOURS: T, Th 11:00 – 1:00
CLASSROOM: N/A
TIME: T, Th 9:00-10:30
DATES: Sept. 2 – Dec. 8

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students taking this course will gain a broad introductory overview of the natural history of the circumpolar northern regions. The course emphasizes field skills in enjoying the natural world. We begin by learning the processes of identification, methods of study and strategies of survival (particularly for winter) for the spectrum of species living in the north. We also introduce the forces which shape and have shaped the northern landscape including climatic, geomorphic and soil forming processes. The course is circumpolar in context, but local Yukon examples will be emphasized.

PREREQUISITES

Admission to the second year of the Northern Studies program, or admission to the Renewable Resources Management program, or permission of the instructor.

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must be willing to engage in field activities with the usual weather, insect and terrain inconveniences.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

CAMO- GEOG 2XX (3)

SFU- GEOG 263 (3) - B-Soc; If SFU GEOG 263 already obtained, credit will be SFU GEOG 1xx (3)

TRU- SSEL 2XX (3)

TRU-OL GEOG 2XX (3)

TWU- HIST 100 lev (3)

UFV- GEOG 1XX (3)

UNBC - NORS 101 (3)

UVIC - GEOG 2XX (3)

VIU - SSCI 1XX (3)

UAF - NSCI 2X (3)

UAS NSCI 2XX (3)

URegina - SSCI 1XX (3)

UBC - ARTS (3) - Credit granted for no more than 2 of YUKO NOST 200, YUKO NOST 201 or YUKO NOST 202

For more information about transferability contact the School of Science.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion students will be able to use standard field manuals to identify naturally occurring species including birds, mammals, plants, fish and some invertebrates. A basic list of northern species will be identified. The adaptations and strategies northern species exhibit to deal with winter will be known.

- Students will know the use of various outdoor study aids, binoculars, spotting scopes, manuals, cameras, and collection apparatus
- Students will know basic ethical behaviors for the safe enjoyment of natural history
- Students will be able to express in writing their personal field observations of species and phenomenon

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures, readings, videos, practical exercises, and class discussions three hours per week online and F2F outside. Field trips.

EVALUATION:

Leaf and Twig Collection	25%
Natural History Journal	25%
Weekly SARs	25%
2 Photo Essays/Stories	25%
TOTAL	100%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

Online readings will be provided.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work 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 University.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon University 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 University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukonu.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 University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University 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): lac@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	September 1, 3	Course Introduction What is Natural History? Naturalist or Scientist? Field equipment, basics of identification
2	September 8, 10	Field trip planning, note taking, journal keeping and Natural History writing. Natural History apps
3	September 15, 17	Leaf and twig collections
4	September 22, 24	We the North! What is “North”?
5	September 29, October 1	Northern Birds
6	October 6, 8	Northern Mammals
7	October 13, 15	The Physical North: Glaciation and Landforms
8	October 20, 22	The Biological and Ecological North: Northern Biomes
9	October 27, 29	Fish
10	November 3, 5	Amphibians
11	November 10, 12	Invertebrates
12	November 17, 19	Life strategies and adaptations to cold
13	November 24, 26	Life strategies and adaptations to cold
14	December 1, 3	Life strategies and adaptations to cold
15	December 8	Council of All Beings
