



## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**NOST 101**

**Introduction to the Circumpolar World**

**3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Amanda Graham, Instructor, Northern Studies

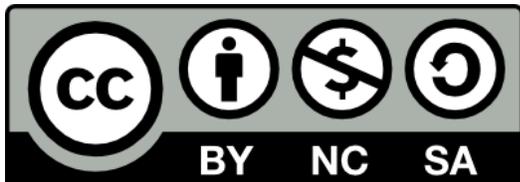
DATE: September 10, 2020

APPROVED BY: Name, Title

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## **INTRODUCTION TO THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH**

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Amanda Graham, MA

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2517

**CLASSROOM:** Online course

**E-MAIL:** agraham@yukonu.ca

**CLASS TIME:** Asynchronous

**TELEPHONE:** +1 867 668 8773

**DATES:** September 14 to December 20  
2020

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduction to the Circumpolar World is an online course developed by the University of the Arctic network for its Circumpolar Studies Core (it's their CS 100). It begins with a discussion of our perceptions of the north polar region and then introduces the landscapes, peoples and cultures and selected matters of contemporary interest to the people and governments of the northern circumpolar region. Through readings, assignments and discussions, students become familiar with the vocabulary, concepts and features of life in the Circumpolar North. They develop an appreciation for the region's Subarctic and Arctic geography, its biological and physical systems, as well as the historical and contemporary cultures and political and economic systems of the peoples who reside in the North today.

The course offers an exciting and interdisciplinary mix of topics aimed at stimulating interests in and knowledge about the circumpolar world and is a prerequisite for upper-level UArctic Circumpolar Studies courses.

### **PREREQUISITES**

This course has no prerequisites.

### **RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Since this is an entirely online course, to get the most out of it, you should have good and stable access to a computer with an Internet connection and experience using both. Familiarity with a digital camera, scanner, webcam and other peripherals or

equivalent input/output devices would be helpful.

In addition, the course is conducted in university-level academic English, so you should have, at a minimum, the ability to read and understand academic documents of 20 pages or more easily, be able to locate, assess and document academic-quality information online, and write properly referenced, short academic works of about 600 words with confidence.

Students will need to complete a separate University of the Arctic registration form allowing the Yukon University and the UArctic Circumpolar Studies Office to share necessary student information. An account on the external course site server will also be required. This account will remain available to you after the course is concluded unless you request its deletion. Ongoing access to the course after its completion is not guaranteed.

### **EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY**

This information refers to the current course and is taken from the BC Transfer Guide, September 2020. Please consult [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca) for the complete list of transferability that includes older versions of this course. This course may be accepted for transfer by other institutions on a case-by-case basis.

<b>Receiving Institution</b>	<b>Transfer Credit or Equivalent</b>
AthabascaU	AU GEOG 302 (3)
CAMO	CAMO GEOG 100 lev (3)
KPU	KPU GEOG 1XXX (3)
SFU	SFU GEOG 1XX (3)
TWU	TWU GEOG 100 lev (3)
UBCO	UBCO GEOG 2nd year (3)
UBCV	UBCV GEOG 1st year (3)
UNBC (UArctic member)	UNBC NORS 101 (3) or UNBC INTS 240 (3)
UVIC	UVIC GEOG 100 lev (1.5)
VIU (UArctic member)	VIU HUMA 1st year (3)
TRENT (UArctic member)	TRE GEOG 1045H
UArctic members	Equivalent course: CS 100 (course code varies)

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

With conscientious application and successful completion of the course, you will be able to

- A. Explain the concept of nordicity using examples from various subject areas or disciplines.
- B. Identify and describe the physical and biological features and processes of the Circumpolar North.
- C. Identify and describe features of cultures, social structures, and political systems of the Circumpolar North.
- D. Contrast the historic and contemporary economic activities in the Circumpolar North.
- E. Identify and describe several of the critical issues the Circumpolar North faces, climate change, self-determination, stewardship, and globalization, asexamples, and place them in context.
- F. Identify strategies for building a common identity in the Circumpolar North.
- G. Locate and evaluate online and other sources of high-quality information onthe Circumpolar North and its issues, including maps, books, and journal articles.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

There are no in-person meetings scheduled for this course and you will work on your own schedule. While there may be no set meetings times, video- or audio-conferencing may be used for office hours and class meetings. The class will proceed on a weekly timetable with set assignments and due dates. This is not a self-paced course.

This is an online course **taught off-site (i.e., not hosted in Yukon University's My Courses)** but using the same Moodle learning management system (LMS). It consists of ten week-long modules, each comprised of a "lecture" or module text that includes required and suggested reading, glossary lists and study questions. A link to this site is posted on your My Courses NOST 101 course page for convenience.

Students discuss the module material and explore its ideas in online forums through

three sets of two individual mini-projects (six total) called “postcards.” Summary work at the end of the course will be a choice of two activities. The first is a short, written assignment that brings the new learning to bear on a discussion of some matter of circumpolar current events. Alternatively, you can choose to take a three-part timed online exam that tests vocabulary and concept knowledge as well as broad understanding of contemporary circumpolar issues.

## ASSESSMENTS

**Community:** *On-line participation, contribution and activity (20%, outcomes A, through F)*

NOST 101 is an **asynchronous** online course (that is, at no set meeting times) in which you work through the material as a group with the other students on the course site. A new topic (module) begins each Monday. **Attendance** is recorded by the course site, as is your use of the resources and discussion activity. Your engaged **participation** in the life of the course is necessary for us all to have fun with and benefit from the course. Experience shows that several regular short visits each week (3–4 times) is more effective for learning and keeping up with the course work than less frequent long visits weekly.

To make this course a success for us all, you will need to have done the assigned readings for each module and take an active part in class discussions. Participation is vital; it improves your own learning and helps others learn better, too. An informed class is an interesting class. Suggestions of ways to participate in module discussions are to be found in the coursework document posted on the course website.

Please inform the instructor if you are or will be unable to visit the course site for four days or more (i.e., because of illness, emergency, etc.).

**Preparation:** *Academic integrity checkpoint quiz (5%)*

As an online course that relies a lot on online resources, it is vital that you demonstrate an awareness of how to use those resources ethically and correctly in a university-level course. While plagiarism, essentially presenting text from sources without flagging it as being composed by someone else in academically acceptable ways, is the most likely, there are also other forms of dishonesty. I want to be sure you know what they are so that everyone reading your posts knows that they can rely on the information you bring to and share with the class. **The content parts of the postcard assignments, short paper and exam essays will not be graded until this quiz has been passed and quiz completion is not retroactive.**

**Knowledge:** *Three sets of two module "postcards" ((2x3) x 7.5% = 45%, outcomes A, B, C, D, E, F and G)*

The course has ten content *modules* plus one additional history week. Each week there is both directed and informal discussion of the module content and a "postcard" research-and-report activity. You will prepare a 500-word "postcard" for two course modules in each of three theme areas (or sections). (Note, the outcomes supported will vary per week and topic.)

The postcards are **due to be posted on Thursdays each week and the grading deadline for a postcard is 10 pm, course time (Pacific Time) on Fridays.**

You may choose which ones you do but **you must do two from each of three theme areas**, that is, among Modules 2, 3 and 4, another two in the next three modules, 5, 6 and 7, and a final two in the three remaining modules, 8, 9 and 10. If you do all three in a theme area, the top two marks are counted.

**Late postcards will not be marked** unless an extension has been granted in advance.

**Summary:** *Choose one of these two options*

*A. A topic paper or "newspaper" (30%, outcomes E, F and G with elements of A through D)*

Research and prepare a short (about 500 to 600 words) paper on some **Circumpolar current event(s) or topic:** You'll choose two or three related, recent, news items (involving two or more circumpolar countries) and discuss the importance of these events or their connection to some aspect of the Circumpolar North as you've come

to know it in the course.. Details are supplied on the course site. **Due in Week 12.**

*B. Comprehensive online exam (30%, outcomes A through F)*

The three-part comprehensive exam **will be conducted on-line in Week 12** and will draw upon the module texts and glossary lists, discussions and other readings.

Question formats include true/false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blanks and short or long paragraph or essay.

## EVALUATION

Quiz	5%
Assignments	45%
Participation and engagement	20%
Summary paper or exam	30%
Total	100 %

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

**CS 100 course texts and readings.** These are supplied online in “Course information” on the course home page. The module texts are available as illustrated web pages, PDF files (suitable for printing) and EPUB and MOBI book files (for most e-readers). New in 2020, some modules are available as audio files. These files are loaded on the YukonU My Courses NOST 101 course page for convenient access.

**Highly recommended:** Map of the North Circumpolar Region (National Atlas of Canada Reference Map Series, MCR-001). Canadian students should buy this map; UArctic students should try to buy a similar map locally. Digital copy available online from the course site and is loaded on the NOST 101 page for convenient access.

See also Google Earth.

Additional readings may be supplied, suggested or recommended. Additional materials may be recommended during the course in response to specific discussions or questions.

## 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 that 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](http://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, they should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): [lac@yukonu.ca](mailto:lac@yukonu.ca).

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Module topic / reading</b>
1	14 September	Module 1: Introduction to the Circumpolar World
2	21 September	Module 2: Northern Perceptions
3	28 September	Module 3: Northern Environments
4	5 October	Module 4: Peoples and Cultures
5	12 October	Module 5: Contemporary Economic Activity
6	19 October	Module 6: Political Systems
7	26 October	History Week
8	2 November	Module 7: Climate Change
9	9 November	Module 8: Stewardship of Resources and Sustainable Development
10	16 November	Module 9: Northern Governance
11	23 November	Module 10: Geopolitics, Security and International Society
12	30 November to 6 December	Summary paper / exam period (online)