

The Human Geography of Northern Canada
GEOG 3512(3)-001
Winter Term: January 6 – April 21, 2020
Department of Geography
The University of Winnipeg

CLASS TIMING:	Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 am - 12:45 pm
CLASSROOM:	Room 2L17
Instructor:	Dr. Durdana Islam
E-mail:	d.islam@uwinnipeg.ca
Office:	4CM32A
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-2pm or by appointment
Teaching Assistant	TBA

Course Description:

This course investigates the contemporary issues in Canada's arctic and subarctic regions mainly focusing on the three territories: Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The region continues to be subjected to a variety of changes in the political, social and economic landscapes. The purpose of this course is to provide students insight into how these changes impact the human geography of Canadian north. Special attention is paid to ongoing and newsworthy issues.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Identify the physical and socio-cultural textures of northern Canada, recognizing and articulation the regional variations within
- 2) Detail aspect of the historical and contemporary circumstances of Indigenous people of the North
- 3) Explore how ideals of 'the North' influence and impact internal and external images of Canada
- 4) Describe key political, colonial, economic, environmental and cultural histories of northern Canada and analyze how these histories impact current governance, economic, environmental and socio-cultural trajectories

Required Textbook:

Watt-Cloutier, S. (2015) *The right to be cold: One woman's story of protecting her culture, the Arctic and the whole planet.* Penguin Books, Toronto.

Online resources/NEXUS:

Course documents (i.e., course outline, project guidelines, lecture slides, supplemental readings) will be made available to students through the NEXUS system. Occasionally short videos, daily news items and other popular materials will be used to illustrate the concepts presented in the course. You are responsible for these materials in addition to the required text and supplementary readings. You must be registered in the course to have access to these materials.

To login in to Nexus, go to: <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/> If you are encounter difficulties with Nexus contact the help desk at 204-786-9149 or help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca

Course Organization:

The following schedule relates to lecture topics/themes and assigned chapters and articles; readings could change to accommodate emerging issues that we may want to discuss in class. Please also be aware that due to unforeseen time restrictions, some material included on the course schedule may not be covered. Any changes will be announced in class.

Theme

- 1. Images and Definitions of the North
- 2. Northern Historical Geography
- 3. Life in arctic
- 4. Food insecurity in Canadian arctic
- 5. Impact of climate change in Canadian arctic
- Population Geography: Population Trends, Settlement Patterns and Community Issues
- 4. Urban Issues
- 5. The Northern Economy: Renewable and Non-Renewable Resource Development
- 6. Political Geography
- 7. Culture and Place Attachment Dynamics
- 8. Looking Forward

COURSE EVALUATION:

Your grade will be based on one quiz, one midterm examination, one final examination, an individual assignment, a group presentation and class participation. The dates and weights of each assignment or exam are summarized in the following table:

Component	Details	% of final mark	Date
Class participation and quiz	In-class activities, discussion, pop quiz	10	On a daily basis
Policy brief	By individual student. More details will be given in the class.	20	February 11
Midterm exam	In-class, closed book; 1 hour	20	February 13
Group Presentation	4-5 students in a group. <i>Presentation</i> in the class and <i>Summary report</i> . More details will be given in class.	20	March 17 and March 19
Final examination	Closed book; 3 hours	30	April 7

Policy brief

Length – 1 piece of paper (both sides) MAXIMUM. You may also add a short appendix of supplementary material, title page, list of references.

Purpose: To write a two page policy brief advocating for a series of policies you think will help lead to a more sustainable and secure solution to address a specific issue (i.e., any current or on going issues that needs attention) of your choice in Canadian North

Activity: (1) Imagine you are meeting with an elected official in any level of government (municipal, provincial or federal) working in the Canadian north (2) Pretend that you have an opportunity to meet with this senior person and think in very concrete terms about what sort of policy or policies you would

like them to pass to help address your concern (3) Write up, justify and defend these suggestions in the form of a 2 page (maximum) policy brief.

In your write-up you will need to (1) present your policy recommendations – make sure these are quite specific, concrete action plans that you think the head of an organization can actually do. (2) Please justify why this is the “right thing to do”. (3) Describe how you will monitor in the future whether this policy/these policies are actually having the intended consequences. You will also need to identify to whom your brief is intended (so make it clear in the title or on the title page who you are pitching this at).

All this has to be compressed into 2 pages, plus a title page and a page of supporting or supplementary material. Note: you have to also remember that senior people are very VERY busy and rarely read much. I recommend you think creatively about bullets, images, columns, text boxes, and make the document interesting to look at. Look at some sample policy briefs and do your own research. Please format your work properly, check for spelling and grammatical error.

Your work will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Recommendations: Did you clearly articulate one (or more) doable, pragmatic and concrete policy recommendations? – 5 marks
- Justification: Did you effectively and persuasively justify why your policy recommendations are “the right thing to do”? – 5 marks
- Monitoring plan: Did you describe how to monitor whether your policy recommendations into the future? – 5 marks
- Mechanics: Did you include a title page where you state who your intended audience is (i.e., you need to let me know whether you are imagining this brief is going to be read by a Provincial cabinet minister , Federal MP or a MLA or councilor). Is your paper professionally presented, with appropriate referencing, accurate spelling, grammar, etc. – 5 marks

Group presentation

Students are required to form small groups of 4-5 (ideally with students from different academic backgrounds) at the beginning of the term for group presentations. Each student group should select a particular environmental concern in arctic region, conduct a literature survey, compile and organize the facts for the presentation. The group must identify the topic at the beginning of the course, get approval from the instructor and receive suggestions for research and potential readings.

Both the presentation and write up should include the following subtopics, but any other subtopic relevant depending on the main topic may be included.

- Introduction, identifying the nature of the environmental issue, affected area, its impact and the existing situation.
- Remedies to reduce the impact: What has been done so far and how effective they are.
- Suggested remedies and preventive measures, if applicable.
- Constraints to remedial measures; social, political and economical.

The presentation length should be 12-15 minutes followed by a 5-minute question period. All members must be involved in the presentation, and participate during the question period. Additional details on presentations and summary will be provided in the class.

The summary report should be brief (one summary per group) and should be about 1000-1200 words excluding references (Font: Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 line spacing). References should be attached separately. Additional details on topics, presentation and summary will be discussed in the class. A sign up sheet will be circulated in class to schedule the presentations.

The summary report should be submitted 24 hours before the presentation date (electronically), which will give me adequate time to get copies for all students.

Final Grades:

Senate approved grades for courses include A+, A, A-, B+, B, C+, C, D, and F. The University does not have a standardized numerical grade conversion scale for each letter grade. The following numeric grading system provides **guidelines only** for the separation of letter grades in this course. These boundaries may be adjusted at the request of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Department Review Committee or University Senate.

Grading:

The following grading system will be used as a guideline in this course. Final letter grades are based on accumulated numeric grades during the course as follows:

A+	90-100 %	C+	65-69.9 %
A	85-89.9 %	C	58-64.9%
A-	80-84.9%	D	50-57.9 %
B+	75-79.9 %	F	less than 50 %
B	70-74.9 %		

Important Dates and Deadlines:

January 7	First day of class
February 16-22	Winter Reading week
February 11	Policy briefing due
February 13	Midterm test I
March 13	*Final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty
March 17- 19	Group presentation
April 2	Last day of Class
April 7	Final exam

* Please note that withdrawing before the voluntary withdraw date does not result in a fee refund

Voluntary Withdrawal: Please note the deadline date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is Friday, March 13, 2020. You must formally withdrawal from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an “F” on your transcript and loss of tuition credit. Students are encouraged to see the instructor before withdrawal to discuss matters pertaining to the grades.

Policy for Final Exam: You are required to bring student ID to your final exam. The exam will be closed book and no tools will be required or accepted except for pens, pencils and erasers. Looking at cell phones during exams is strictly prohibited.

Class cancellation: When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.

Communications with the Instructor: *Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.*

Instructor's policy on mobile devices: using mobile devices such as phones and tablets is disrupting and disrespectful and is therefore prohibited in the classroom. Please ensure that your phone is on silent or turned off. While in class, please use your computers for class-related activities only.

Academic misconduct: Reference to the appropriate items in the Regulations & Policies section of the *Course Calendar*, including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> Instructors should become familiar with the procedures for dealing with alleged academic misconduct. <http://pace.uwinnipegcourses.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Academic%20Misconduct%20Policy.pdf>

Avoiding Academic and Non-academic Misconduct: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> . Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

Detailed information can be found at the following:

- The University of Winnipeg library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>
- Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

Misuse of Filesharing Sites: Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

Indigenous students seeking additional supports, academic or other, are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC). The ASSC offers a variety of support services, and was created to maintain a safe, educational and culturally sensitive environment for all Aboriginal students.

Avoiding Copyright Violation: Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to file sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor /presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.

Policy on Student Advocacy: Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the UWSA Student Advocacy Centre where Student advocates will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case and ensuring students have access to representation. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact us at advocacycentre@theuwsa.ca or 204-786-9786.

Scent-Free Environment: exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

Respectful Work and Learning Environment: All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/>

Accessibility Services: Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., notetakers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Religious holidays: Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

Online resources/NEXUS:

Course documents (i.e., course outline, project guidelines, lecture slides, supplemental readings) will be made available to students through NEXUS. You are responsible for these materials in addition to the required text and supplementary readings.