

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPY 304 – Northern and Arctic Environments



Contact Time	Two 1.5-hour lectures per week	
Format	Lectures, quizzes, and assignments	
Class Assessment	Assignments	3 X 10% each
	Map quiz	1 X 10% each
	Weekly quizzes	10 X 6% each
	No Final Exam	

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will provide an interdisciplinary study of the geography of northern regions, emphasizing the Canadian Arctic. Weaving together natural and social sciences, this course will provide a holistic understanding of the intersection between Arctic System Science and human activity in Northern and Arctic regions. The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of key concepts in Northern and Arctic System Science and equip them with the skills to analyze and address contemporary issues affecting ecosystems and communities in these regions. The course will present a selection of topics and case studies in Northern and Arctic System Science, with the assumption that students will have some previous coursework in the natural sciences to support their experience.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will learn fundamental principles of Northern Science;
- Students will apply natural and social science concepts to practical and contemporary issues surrounding resource development, infrastructure, and Inuit and First Nation cultures;
- Students will learn to communicate a holistic understanding of the biophysical and social character of the Arctic and northern regions;
- Students will learn to identify the major processes and systems, both biophysical and social, that operate in Arctic and northern regions;
- Students will enhance their ability evaluate the impacts of environmental change and climate change on northern landscapes and Peoples;

COURSE TOPICS

- Defining the North
- Arctic Peoples
- Northern and Arctic Climates
- Northern and Arctic Landscapes
- The Cryosphere
- Drivers of Arctic Change

COURSE READINGS

Required: No specific textbook is associated with this course content. Reading materials including book chapters, journal articles and/or other relevant documents will be provided in class and online.