

GEOG-502 **GEOGRAPHY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT**

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Classroom: tentatively Burnside Hall 429, Monday 2:35-5:25

Course Precis

“Northern Development” is intended to provide students from a variety of disciplines with the opportunity in a graduate-style seminar atmosphere to study and discuss a range of topics and issues relevant to Canadian Inuit today. Thus, discussion and the exchange of ideas will be emphasized, supplemented with several review exercises and a major research paper.

The focus throughout the course will be: 1) the linkage (if any) between Inuit tradition and modernity; 2) the relevance of these two concepts to social, economic, and political matters of issue today. The geographic and cultural focus will be from the Mackenzie Delta to Labrador, with occasional comparative side trips to Alaska, Siberia and Greenland. Likewise, the intellectual focus will be broad, drawing from various Geography sub-disciplines and using concepts and ideas from ethnology, economics, urban planning, political science and law. For this reason, the seminar will not be predisposed toward any one theoretical perspective. Instead, an aspect of the seminar will be to discuss methodological and theoretical approaches appropriate to particular topics.

In general, a main theme throughout the term will be the compatibility or discordance between Inuit tradition and modernity. This year the thematic focus will be whether the trend in contemporary policy development for the North, especially in the areas of climate change and food security, is a return to the acculturation perspective on Inuit of the the early government era..

Course Structure

As is the case when studying any societal “other”, caution suggests that background preparation is indispensable. Thus, the first section (3 weeks) of the course will be used to develop a general knowledge base about Inuit. To accomplish this in so brief a period of time, it is expected that several overview works (Damas, Hughes) will be a basis of both discussion about pre-Nunavut Inuit culture and society and pique our curiosity to read beyond what is presented in the first few weeks of the seminar.

With this background in place, the remainder of the seminar will focus on the examination and analysis of specific issues related to the Nunavut since its inception. While the issues concerning Inuit and Nunavummiut are many and our time short, each focal topic will be addressed in 3-4 period blocks during which the emphasis will be on the introduction and discussion of both accepted and, hopefully, new perspectives to the topic at hand.

To facilitate discussion of chosen topics (five in total), each seminar member will have the opportunity to briefly introduce a section (15-30 minute overview of the principal literature

and thinking) and thereafter moderate discussion on the subject. Preparation for this role will obviously be paramount.

In addition to discussion responsibilities (as a moderator and as a contributor), each seminar member will be expected to complete two review papers of 12-15pages. The first will focus on the socio-historical evolution of a contemporary Inuit community, while the subject of the second, to be concerned with a topic of more breadth, will be of your own choice. Finally, each person will develop a major research paper (=35pp) on a topic of his or her choice (wisdom suggests that the focus of one's second paper be used as a springboard into this major paper).

Evaluation-Deadlines-Penalties

Grading will be discussed. One possible structure is: major paper – 40%; seminar participation – 30%; seminar leadership – 30%.

The nature of the research paper is somewhat opaque at this time. At present, I envision it to be focused on the seminar's central theme but with the theme developed in terms of a specific community or region (or possibly a type of development project).

Each seminar member will meet with me following submission of her/his paper topic. This meeting is intended to facilitate development of the topic that has been chosen for discussion and the major paper.

The requirements for seminar leadership and participation are self-explanatory. Leadership includes providing colleagues with the citations of key references (3-5) that will allow them to participate on your chosen focus. Beyond this the rules are to be prepared and do not let mouth disconnect from brain.

All assignment deadlines are firm. However, medical and other exigencies occur. If an absence or delay of an assignment is anticipated, please confirm such with me by e-mail or in person and be prepared to state when the assignment will arrive. (I do not; however accept electronic versions of assignments.) Regarding attendance: persistent absence or tardiness will affect the participation grade; likewise, unexcused absence while a topic moderator will also invoke full penalty.

Useful Course/Background References

Anonymous

2013 Nunavut's Vision, Nunavut's Reality. Nunatsiaq News. 2 December.

Brody, H.

1975 Peoples' Land: Eskimo-White Relations in the Eastern Arctic. London: Penguin.

Cameron, E (2012). Securing Indigenous Politics: A Critique of the Vulnerability of Adaptation to the Human Dimensions of Climate Change in the Canadian Arctic. Global Environmental Change 22(1): 103-114.

Cameron, E, Mearns, R & McGrath, J (2015). Translating Climate Change: Adaptation, Resilience, and Climate Politics in Nunavut, Canada. Annals of the Association of American Geographers 105(2):271-283.

- Clancy, P.
1987 The Making of Eskimo Policy in Canada, 1952-1962: Life and Times of the Eskimo Affairs Committee. Arctic 40(3):191-197.
- Dahl, J. J. Hicks and P. Jull
2000 Nunavut: Inuit Regain Control of Their Lands and Their Lives. IWGIA Document No.102. Copenhagen: International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs.
- Damas, D. (ed.)
1984 Handbook of North American Indians, V.5: Arctic. Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution. (2 copies on reserve in McClennan Library under GEOG-301)
- 2002 Arctic Migrants, Arctic Villagers: The Transformation of Inuit Settlement in the Central Arctic. Montréal: McGill-Queen's Press.
- Duhaime, G. (ed.)
2002 Sustainable Food Security in the Arctic. Edmonton: CCI Press.
- Duhaime, G. and N. Bernard (eds.)
2008 Arctic Food Security. Edmonton: CCI Press.
- Ford, J. and B. Smit
2004. A Framework for Assessing the Vulnerability of Communities in the Canadian Arctic to Risks Associated with Climate Change. Arctic 57(4):389-400.
- Ford, J., T. Pearce, F. Duerden, C. Furgal and B. Smit
2010. Climate Change Policy Responses for Canada's Inuit Population: The Importance of and Opportunities for Adaptation. Global Environmental Change 20(1):171-191.
- Hall, E & Sanders, T (2015). Accountability and the Academy: Producing Knowledge About the Human Dimensions of Climate Change. JRAI: Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (NS) 21: 438-461.
- Hicks, J. and G. White
2000 Nunavut Inuit Self-Determination Through a Land Claim and Public Government? In Nunavut: Inuit Regain Control of Their Lands and Their Lives ed. by J. Dahl, J. Hicks and P. Jull. IWGIA Document No.102. Copenhagen: International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs. Pp. 30-115.
- Hughes, C.
1965 Under Four Flags: Recent Cultural Change Among the Eskimos. Current Anthropology 6(1):3-69.
- Sandlos, J.
2007 Hunters at the Margins: Native People and Wildlife Conservation in the Northwest

Territories. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Vallee, F., D. Smith and J. Cooper

1984. Contemporary Canadian Inuit. Handbook of North American Indians, Vol.5, Arctic. D. Damas (ed.). Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution. Pp.662-675.

Wenzel, G.W.

1991 Animal Rights, Human Rights: Ecology, Economy and Ideology in the Canadian Arctic. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

2009. Canadian Inuit Subsistence and Ecological Instability - If the Climate Changes Must the Inuit? Polar Research 28(1):89-99.

White, G.

2006 Cultures in Collision: Traditional Knowledge and Euro-Canadian Governance Processes in Northern Land Claims Boards. Arctic 59(4):401-414.

Note also these dedicated northern journals: Arctic, Arctic Anthropology, Polar Record, Northern Public Affairs and Études/Inuit/Studies. Another potential source is NUNATSIAQ NEWS www.nunatsiaqnews.com, the only Nunavut-wide newspaper.

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