



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA

## NOST 201 / REN R 205

### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE NORTH

In Fall 2019, NOST 201 *Natural History of the North*, is being offered at Yukon College concurrent with the University of Alberta's REN R 205, as part of the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences, B.Sc. Program. All students registered in NOST 201 or REN R 205 must adhere to requirements outlined in this course syllabus. University of Alberta students must also be aware of, and adhere to, the University's Code of Student Behaviour, referenced in the outline; Yukon College students must be aware of, and adhere to, Yukon College's Academic Regulations, also referenced in the outline.

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<b>INSTRUCTORS:</b>	Dave Mossop Larry Gray, Instructor, School of Science
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	D. Mossop: most mornings, Fridays often in field L. Gray: Mon/Weds 10:00-12:00, or by appointment
<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b>	D. Mossop: Yukon Research Centre office 08 L. Gray: A2303
<b>TELEPHONE/E-MAIL:</b>	D. Mossop: (867) 668-8736, <a href="mailto:dmossop@yukoncollege.yk.ca">dmossop@yukoncollege.yk.ca</a> L. Gray: (867) 456-8607, <a href="mailto:lgray@yukoncollege.yk.ca">lgray@yukoncollege.yk.ca</a>

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**CLASS DAYS & TIMES:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30-10:00 am

**CLASS LOCATION:** A2601

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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students taking this course will gain a broad introductory overview of the natural history of the circumpolar northern regions and emphasizes field skills in enjoying the natural world and how northern organisms deal with winter. We begin by learning the processes of identification, methods of study and strategies of winter survival for the spectrum of species living in the north. We also introduce the forces which shape and have shaped the northern landscape including climatic, and geomorphic processes. The course is circumpolar in context, but local Yukon examples will be emphasised. The course includes one 3 day field trip and shorter local walks.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:**

Upon completion students will be able to

- use standard field manuals to identify naturally occurring species including birds, mammals, plants, fish and some invertebrates. They will have a fair idea of the names and survival strategies of Yukon's common species.
- Students will know the use of various outdoor study aids, bionoculars, 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 (3-0-0):**

Will consist of lectures, demonstrations and class discussions three hours per week. Field trips. Short term papers. Field Trips are an integral part of the course. Two week-end trips will be organized. **FIRST IS MID SEPTEMBER AND INVOLVES ENTERING THE USA...PASSPORTS OR ACCEPTABLE ID REQUIRED.** Both will focus on learning the Northern biota and group enjoyment of Natural History. Details will be discussed in the first lecture(s).

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES AND/OR CO-REQUISITES:**

*For students taking the course as NOST 201:* Admission to the second year of the Northern Studies program, or admission to the Renewable Resources Management program, or permission of the instructor.

*For students taking the course as REN R 205:* Registration in Yukon College/University of Alberta BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree program.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:**

- A reprotex (Natural History of the North) will be handed out the first day of class.
- "Life in the Cold" (An introduction to winter ecology) by Peter Marchand is required reading
- Additional reading material may be provided in class or put on reserve in the library.
- Various field guides will be used and recommended and are available at the bookstore.

## **YUKON COLLEGE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS**

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 College.

## **UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR**

### **Academic Integrity**

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Code of Student Behaviour**

All students at the University of Alberta are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at:

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>

Please familiarize yourself with it and ensure that you do not participate in any inappropriate behavior as defined by the Code. Key components of the code include the following statements.

30.3.2(1) No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) c. No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

## **PROFESSIONALISM AND CLASSROOM RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and field trips, be engaged and courteous in all course activities, and to be on time for class. Please do not use cellular phones during class. Laptops are permitted for note taking and in-class work; however, please do not use laptops in class for non-class-related activities.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:**

#### **Assignments**

Two short written assignments and a field journal will be given during the first lectures.

#### **Field trips**

Attendance at field trip portions of the course is mandatory; no alternative activity will be provided; students must be prepared to forfeit marks involved in field activities are not attended.

#### **Exams**

Two term exams will test understanding of lecture material, one at the half way point in the course and one at the end.

#### **Due Dates and Late Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates given in class and will be deemed late if more than one lecture period late, (one mark forfeit for each lecture period) and will be deemed unacceptable if four lecture periods late (two weeks).

#### **Evaluation**

The course grade will be determined as follows (both NOST 201 and REN R 205):

	<b>Percent</b>
Field content	35
Journal	15
Term papers	20
Exam 1	15
Exam 2	15
Total	100

## Assignment of grades

The total numerical score will be converted to a grade on Yukon College's letter grading system.

## RECORDING OF LECTURES, LABS, ETC.:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

## YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College 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 College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see [www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.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 College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College 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@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lac@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

## EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY:

*YC NOST 201*: For current information on course transferability see <http://www.bctransferguide.ca>

UBC Arts (3) Note: credit granted for  
no more than two of NOST 200,  
NOST 201 and NOST 202.

UVIC GEOG 200PL (1.5)

UNBC NORS 101 (3)

TRU SSEL 2XX0 (3)

TWU NOST 201 & Nost 202 = GEOG 200L (3)

UAF NSCI F2N (3)

SFU GEOG 263 (3)

UAS NSCI F2 (3)

URegina SoSc 100L (3)

VIU SSCI 1st (3)

UFV GEOG 1XX (3)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OR TOPIC OUTLINE:**

1	Introduction	Ch.1,2
2	Field equipment, basics of identification,	Ch. 3
3,	Field trip planning, note taking, Journal keeping and Natural History article writing	Ch. 4,
6	Basics of defining the northern area, biological north defined.	Ch.5
7,8	Life in cold-basic winter strategies.	Ch 6,7
9.10	Boreal birds, how to "birdwatch" - Northern families, adaptations.	Ch. 8
11,	Boreal plants, communities, tundra, taiga, boreal forest, treeline.	Ch. 9
12, 13	Mammals of the North - tracking, adaptations..	Ch. 10
14, 15	Marine mammals	Ch. 11
16	Northern fishes	Ch 12
17	Amphibians	Ch 12
18	Invertebrates	Ch 13
19, 21	Glaciation and glacial landforms	Ch 14
22- 24	Periglacial features	Ch 15