



COURSE OUTLINE

NOST 101

INTRODUCTION TO THE CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD

45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS

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DATE: 16 December 2019

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson

DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

DATE:

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

DATE:



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD

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<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b> A2517	<b>CLASSROOM:</b> Asynchronous online
<b>E-MAIL:</b> agraham@yukoncollege.yk.ca	<b>TIME:</b> N/A; 1 module/week
<b>TELEPHONE:</b> 867-668-8773	<b>DATES:</b> February 3 to April, 19, 2019

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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 CS courses.

### PREREQUISITES

This course has no prerequisites.

However, since it 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, be able to locate, assess and document academic-quality

information online, and write short academic works of about 600 words with confidence.

**TRANSFERABILITY OR EQUIVALENCY**

This information refers to the current course and is taken from the BC Transfer Guide, December 2019. Please consult [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca) for the complete list of transferability that includes older versions of this course. This course is accepted for transfer by other institutions on a case-by-case basis.

Receiving Institution	Transfer Credit or Equivalent
Athabasca U	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)
UBC	UBC GEOG 1st (3)
UBCO	UBCO GEOG 2nd (3)
UBCV	UBCV GEOG 1st (3)
UNBC (UArctic member)	UNBC NORS 101 (3) or UNBC INTS 240 (3)
UVIC	UVIC GEOG 100 lev (1.5 units)
VIU (UArctic member)	VIU HUMA 1st (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, as examples,

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 on the Circumpolar North and its issues, including maps, books, and journal articles.

## COURSE FORMAT

This is an online course **taught off-site (i.e., not hosted in Yukon College's MyCourses)** 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 external site is posted on the MyCourses NOST 101 course page for convenience.

Students discuss the module material and explore its ideas in online forums through three sets of two mini-projects (six total) called "postcards." A separate, short, written assignment brings the new learning to bear on a discussion of some matter of circumpolar current events. Finally, an online exam will test vocabulary and concept knowledge as well as broad understanding of contemporary circumpolar issues.

## RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will need to complete a separate University of the Arctic registration form allowing the Yukon College and the UArctic International Academic Office at Trent University in Ontario to share relevant student information for the duration of the course. 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.

## ASSESSMENTS

### Attendance & Participation

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. A new topic (module) begins each Monday. Attendance is recorded by the course site, as is your use of the resources and engagement with other students.

While there are no set meeting times, your engaged participation in the forums and 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 spread over each week (3-4 times)

is much more effective for learning and keeping up with the course than one long visit less frequently.

**On-line participation and in-course engagement (15%, outcomes A, B, C, D, E; assessed 12 April)**

To make this course a success for us all, you will need to take an active part in class discussions, and to have done the assigned readings for each module. Your participation is absolutely 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 five consecutive days or more (i.e., because of illness, school trip, emergency, etc.).

**Assignments**

**Three sets of two module “postcards” (6 x 7.5% = 45%, outcomes A, B, C, D, E, F and G)**

The course has ten content *modules*. 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 midnight course time on Saturdays.**

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.

Students will have had the opportunity to complete four postcards (30% of final grade) by March 20, the last day to withdraw from this course (all other YC courses have drop dates of 6 March) because of the late start.

**A short current-events “newspaper” (15%, outcomes E and G)**

You are required to research, prepare and submit a short (about 600 words) “newspaper” on some **circumpolar current event(s)**. Choose 2 or 3 related news items (involving two or more circumpolar countries) and discuss the importance of these events. Details are supplied on the course site. This paper is **due in Week 10**.

## Tests

### Comprehensive final online exam (25%, outcomes A through F)

The final exam will be conducted on-line at the end of term, and will draw upon the module texts and glossary lists, discussions and other readings. Question formats include true/false, multiple choice, matching and long paragraph or essay. Details about exam process and procedures will be published on the course site. The exam period runs over Week 12.

## EVALUATION

Assignments (Postcards and Newspaper)	60 %
Participation and engagement	15 %
Final Exam	25 %
Total	100 %

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK 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). These files are loaded on the NOST 101 course page for convenient, advanced 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 <http://atlas.uarctic.org> or GoogleEarth.

Additional readings may be supplied, suggested or recommended.

Note: The module texts in PDF and ebook formats and the digital map are available for download from the YC MyCourses page for NOST 101, which you’ll see on your MyCourses dashboard.

## 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.

Attendance is integral to student success. Discussion and participation are particularly important in this class, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete any work assigned.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper 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.

## **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 <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) at (867) 668-8785 or [lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

## TOPIC OUTLINE

Other readings and materials may be assigned or advised. A detailed syllabus is provided in class and is found on the course site.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Module topic / reading</b>
1	3 February	Module 1: Introduction to the Circumpolar World
2	10 February	Module 2: Northern Perceptions
3	17 February	Module 3: Northern Environments
4	24 February	Module 4: Peoples and Cultures
5	2 March	Module 5: Contemporary Economic Activity
6	9 March	Module 6: Political Systems
7	16 March	Module 7: Climate Change
8	23 March	Module 8: Stewardship of Resources and Sustainable Development
9	30 March	Module 9: Northern Governance
10	6 April	Module 10: Geopolitics, Security and International Society
11	13 to 19 April	Exam period (online)