

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
School of Liberal Arts
Winter, 2017



COURSE OUTLINE

ANTH 221

SUBARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Norman Easton

DATE: 14 November 2016

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson

DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

DATE:

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

DATE:



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SUBARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Norman Alexander Easton **OFFICE HOURS:** Mon - Thurs,
10 :30 a.m. - noon

OFFICE LOCATION: A2410 **CLASSROOM:** A2801 (lab)

E-MAIL: neaston@yukoncollege.yk.ca **TIME:** 9 :00 - 10 :30 AM (T/Th) &
10 :30 - noon (Th) Lab

TELEPHONE: 668-8770 (Admin Ast.) **DATES:** Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 5 - April 21, 2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the archaeological record of the North American Subarctic with special emphasis on the Beringia, including Yukon and Alaska.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to current interpretations of the record of human occupations in the North American Subarctic with special emphasis on the western Subarctic, including Yukon and Alaska.

The first quarter of the course will review the current and past subarctic environment, the nature of indigenous social and cultural adaptations to the subarctic, the history of archaeological research in the subarctic, and special problems associated with recovering and interpreting the archaeological record in the subarctic.

The remainder of the course will present a chronological overview of subarctic prehistory from the earliest known evidence, dating from the Pleistocene, to the time of European contact. Students will review primary sources related to specific sites and major interpretive frameworks. They will also engage in a project that relates to local archaeological fieldwork.

PREREQUISITES

Anth 103 and Anth 220 are recommended.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

CAMO ANTH 200 lev (3)
TRU ANTH 2xx0 (3)
UBC ANTH 2nd (3)
UVIC ANTH 200 lev (1.5)
UR Anth 200-level (3)

CAPU ANTH 2xx (3)
TRU-OL ARCH 2xx1(3)
UFV ANTH 1xx (3)
UAF Anth elective (3)

SFU ARCH 1xx (3)
TWU ANTH 100 lev (3)
UNBC ANTH 2xx (3)
UAS Anth elective (3)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

1. Have a broad understanding of the environment and historic traditional cultures of the subarctic.
2. Have a broad understanding of the history of archaeological research in the subarctic, and specific challenges and responses to undertaking archaeology in high latitude environments.
3. Have specific understanding of Pleistocene climates and the oscillating existence and nature of Beringia.
4. Become familiar with a variety of theories relating to the occupation of high latitudes by humans and their migration into North America during the late Pleistocene.
5. Develop a chronological appreciation of the broad outlines of North American subarctic culture history.

COURSE FORMAT

A combination of lectures and seminars will be used to explore concepts and data presented in the readings. Laboratory and museum studies will also be incorporated as individual term research projects.

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

General Information

- All students are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions or concerns about the assignments and/or exams
- Requests for extensions must be made no less than three days before the due date
- One mark per calendar day will be deducted if the assignment is handed in after the due date unless an extension has been granted
- Each student must complete and submit a unique assignment separate from work submitted for credit in another class
- All written assignments must be double-spaced and typed using Times New

Roman 12 point font on 8.5 x 11 page format. Spelling, grammar and content organization are reflected in the grade

- All written assignments will be submitted electronically via email to the instructor at northeaston@gmail.com. Appropriate use of web-links within documents is encouraged
- The final examination will be written during the assigned examination period

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is mandatory. All students will be expected to attend and actively participate in class and online discussions and activities, as assigned by the instructor. The material covered in the classroom is cumulative in nature, and missing classes may put students at a disadvantage. Attendance and participation will account for 10% of the student's final grade.

As per Academic Regulation 4.01, a student may be dismissed from a course if more than ten percent (10%) of the scheduled contact hours are missed. Dismissal from a course may result in loss of full-time status and loss of sponsorship funding.

Assignments

Participation

Value = 20 marks

Each of us brings unique experiences to our understanding of the readings and the topics. This mark will assess your weekly participation in the course in terms of your contributions of informed comments to the week's topic. A satisfactory performance level will demonstrate that you have read the assigned material and can relate it to the topic. A superior performance level will seek to integrate new knowledge with that already held or recently acquired. Archaeology is a subdiscipline of Anthropology and the integration of an anthropological perspective on the technological remains of the past is encouraged.

Seminar Presentations

Value = 40 marks

Each week a student will be responsible for the leadership of a seminar discussion of one of the week's assigned readings; this responsibility will rotate throughout the term and generally each student will be responsible for two to four readings through the course. A satisfactory performance level would include the posting of a short parestis of the reading and discussion questions prior to class on the course web page, presentation of a critical commentary which relates the material to the week's topic and previous readings, and leading of an informed discussion during the video conference. A superior performance level would be achieved by stimulating further discussion within the class and by relating the readings to new, unassigned readings,

or previous or recently acquired knowledge on the subject.

Culture History Chart

Value = 10 marks

Throughout the term students will be exposed to a variety of northern culture histories and details of specific major archaeological sites on the basis of which they will develop their own culture history chart. This chart will form the basis for their final examination essay question and will be submitted to the instructor at the completion of the final exam.

Research Project

Value = 50 marks

Early in the term students will be assigned a research project relevant to ongoing local archaeological fieldwork. The exact nature of any individual project will be developed in consultation with the instructor and may include working as a team or group with others, depending on the nature of the project chosen. Towards the end of the term you will be expected to present a short (15 minute) seminar on the nature and results of your project to the class and submit a short written version of your comments. Grading of the assignments will reflect: a) satisfactory completion of the work taken on by mutual agreement (25 marks); b) your seminar presentation (15 marks); and c) original or cogent contributions to the structure, application, or analysis of the project (10 marks).

Tests

Final Examination

Value = 80 marks

A comprehensive final examination will be written during the designated college examination period. The exam will consist of a set of short answer questions related to assigned readings, true-false and multiple choice questions related to general aspects of subarctic archaeology, and a choice of short essay topics.

Other

6. Attendance and Participation

Students will be evaluated on their attendance and participation in class discussions that demonstrates reading and reflection on assigned readings and ancillary materials.

EVALUATION

Distribution of Marks Used for Student Evaluation			
Evaluation	Topic	Value	Weight
Participation	Attendance and in	20	10%

	class discussion		
Seminar Presentations	As Assigned	40	20%
Culture History Chart	Subarctic Chronology	10	5%
Research Project/Paper	Student's Choice	50 Marks	25%
Final Exam	Cumulative Evaluation	80 Marks	40%
Total		200 Marks	100%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

There is no core textbook for this course. Selected Required and Supplementary Readings will be made available to participants by the instructor.

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.

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 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.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Week	Topic
1	Course Introduction Definition of Subarctic. Ecological vrs. Cultural. Overview of Subarctic paleo-ecology. Historic populations (linguistics and cultural).
2	Human adaptations to the Boreal Forest. Resources and strategies for survival. Human social and political organization in the subarctic. The ethnographic analogy.
3	History of Archaeological research. Special problems related to research in the subarctic. Group Seminar - Seminal Figures in Northern Archaeology
4	The early archaeological record in Western Beringia. Definition and time frame. Post-Glacial Climate Dynamics. Relevance of northeast Asia evidence. Early human migration(s) to North America.
5	The early archaeological record in Eastern Beringia. Alaskan and Yukon evidence. Chindadn-Nenana, Denali, Sluiceway, Mesa
6	Late Pleistocene - Early Holocene occupations in the Western Subarctic. Northern Cordilleran and Microblade Technologies.
7	Early Holocene Occupations in the Subarctic Shield. Northern Plano and Acasta.
8	Mid-Holocene occupations in the Western Subarctic. Northern Archaic and Northwest Microblade.
9	Mid-Holocene occupations in the Subarctic Shield. The Shield Archaic. Paleo-Eskimo.
10	The Late Prehistoric Period in the Western Subarctic. The Athapaskan Question.
11	The Late Prehistoric Period in the Subarctic Shield. Taltheilei, Laurel, Blackduck, and Selkirk.
12	Historic Archaeology in the Subarctic. Unresolved questions in Subarctic Archaeology.
13	Contemporary archaeological research in the Yukon. Oral History and Prehistory. The Yukon Land Claim and Archaeology. Directions for future research.
n.b. An up to date reading list will be made available weekly via email to participants by the course instructor.	