



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**NOST 101**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD**

**45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Amanda Graham

DATE: 28 November 2017

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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**COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

Introduces students to the landscape, peoples and issues of the region. It examines the geography, biological and physical systems of the Subarctic and Arctic, then turns to the aboriginal and contemporary peoples of the region. It also surveys some of the particular issues facing the region including: climate change, economics, and political climate. This course is offered online.

**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 BCS 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 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 and assess academic-quality information online, and write short academic works of about 600 words with confidence.

## EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This information refers to the current course and is taken from the BC Transfer Guide, September 2017. 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
AthabascaU	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)
UNBC (UArctic member)	UNBC NORS 101 (3) or UNBC INTS 240 (3)
UVIC	UVIC GEOG 100 lev (1.5)
VIU (UArctic member)	VIU HUMA 1st (3)
UArctic members	Equivalent course: BCS/CS 100

## 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.
- 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 at Yukon College) using the 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 site is posted on the yukoncollege.me Moodle NOST 101 course page for convenience.

Students discuss the module material and explore its ideas in online forums through a series of individual mini-projects, called “postcards.” A short written assignment brings the new learning to bear on a discussion of some matter of circumpolar current events. A final online exam will test your vocabulary and concept knowledge as well as your broad understanding of some 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 to share relevant student information. 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” (that is, at no set meeting times) online course 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. 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 each week (3-4 times) is more effective for learning and keeping up with the course work than one long visit weekly.

### **On-line participation (15%, outcomes A, B, C, D, E)**

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 may 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 days or more (i.e., because of illness, school trip, emergency, etc.).

### **Assignments**

#### **Six module “postcards” (6 x 7.5%, outcomes A, B, C, D, E, F and G)**

The course has ten modules. Each week there is both directed and informal discussion of the module content and a “postcard” activity. You will prepare a total of six 500-word “postcards” for six course modules. (Note, the outcomes supported will vary per week and topic.) The postcards are **due to be posted on Thursdays each week**.

You may choose which ones you do but **you must do two from each theme area**, 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.

#### **A short current-events paper (15%, outcomes E and G)**

You are required to research, prepare and submit a short (about 600 words) paper on **Circumpolar current events**: You’ll choose two or three related recent 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, fill-in-the-blanks and short or long paragraph or essay. The **exam period runs over Week 12**.

### **Other**

N/A

## EVALUATION

Assignments	60 %
Participation	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 book files (for most e-readers). Copies of these files are loaded on the NOST 101 yukoncollege.me page for convenient access.

**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 yukoncollege.me page for convenient access.

See also <http://atlas.uarctic.org> or GoogleEarth.

Additional readings may be supplied, suggested or recommended.

## 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	05 February	Module 1: Introduction to the Circumpolar World
2	12 February	Module 2: Northern Perceptions
3	19 February	Module 3: Northern Environments
4	26 February	Module 4: Peoples and Cultures
5	05 March	Module 5: Contemporary Economic Activity
6	12 March	Module 6: Political Systems
7	19 March	Module 7: Climate Change
8	26 March	Module 8: Stewardship of Resources and Sustainable Development
9	2 April	Module 9: Northern Governance
10	9 April	Module 10: Geopolitics, Security and International Society
11	16 to 22 April	Exam period (online)