

ANTH 259-01
ENVI 259-01
Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic
Fall 2018 MWF 10:50 - 11:50
Carnegie 06b

Instructor: Scott Legge
Office: Carnegie 04d
Office Hours: **T 9:00 – 10:30 & TR 1:30 to 2:30** and by appointment
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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the human settlement of the circumpolar region of the world. The Arctic represents one of the most extreme environments to which humans have adapted. These adaptations include both biological and cultural changes required to settle and flourish in this formidable setting. The course will look at some of the cultural practices that appear to be ubiquitous throughout the Arctic, as well as those specializations that have developed as a result of some of the more localized environmental pressures. Finally, it will explore the consequences of rapid global climate change as well as modernization on these unique cultures to get a sense of what the future might hold for the indigenous peoples of the Arctic. The course will utilize readings, films, and artifacts to reconstruct cultural development through time. It will investigate these topics through the rich historical, ethnographic, and archaeological records available from this dynamic part of the world.

Required Texts:

Mark Nuttall 2002. Protecting the Arctic: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Survival
ISBN: 9789057023552

John F. Hoffecker 2004. A Prehistory of the North: Human Settlement of the Higher Latitudes
ISBN: 978-0813534695

Assignments:

Team presentations x3	(35%)
Reading summaries x6	(35%)
Term paper x1	(30%)

Presentations will be during weeks 4, 7, and 11.

Unless previous arrangements for an extension have been made, assignments turned in after their due date will have the grade lowered by one full letter grade per day late (weekends count).

This course adheres to the Policy on Ethics and Anthropological Research for the Anthropology Department, Macalester College. This policy can be found both on the Moodle page for this course as well as at the following link:

<http://www.macalester.edu/academics/anthropology/researchpolicies/>

You are expected to turn in all assignments on the day and time that they are due. If you have a health or personal reason for turning in an assignment late, please make sure that the Dean of Students Office is aware of it. Late assignments will be reduced by one full letter grade for each day that they are late (weekends count!).

It is assumed that all students will work independently during examinations and that no one will claim someone else's work as their own. Refer to the Macalester Student Handbook to understand the serious consequences for such academic misconduct.

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please meet with the Associate Dean of Students, who will serve as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with them at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully. The Associate Dean can be reached in the Office of Student Affairs, 119 Weyerhaeuser, by phone at 651-696-6220.

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Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and/or by e-mail.

Fall Term Schedule of Topics:

Course introduction and exploration of the term “Arctic”

Tracing the first peoples of the Arctic – The archaeological evidence

Migration and interaction

Asia, Europe, Greenland, North America

Environmental continuity and cultural diversity – The ethnographic evidence

Implications of global climate change and modernization – The modern picture

“Hot spots” of climate change in the Arctic.

Cultural and biological consequences of changing subsistence patterns.

Possible short-term and long-term effects of climate change on the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and what role, if any, the West can play in mitigating these effects.

Overarching topics throughout the semester

Exploring cultural adaptations to what are essentially microclimatic variations: marine, lacustrine, riverine, and inland adaptations.

Economy, labor, and gender in Arctic communities