Professor: **Dr. Bella Bychkova Jordan** E-mail: belka@austin.utexas.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-1:00 in Calhoun 3

**Course objectives:** This course is designed to develop a geographical understanding of the circumpolar region of the North, an ancient human habitat and a home to distinct, millennia old, civilizations. These indigenous Arctic cultures and livelihoods are being constantly challenged by modern industrial powers, and the clash between two contesting realities is profound. Emphasis is given to a historical geographical perspective on the major processes forming cultural and natural landscapes (including global warming), and influencing society, economy, spiritual life and politics. Regions include: Alaska, the Canadian northern territories, Scandinavian North, including Sapmi (Lapland), Iceland, Greenland, the Russian North, and Siberia.

**Required reading**: Course package, available at **Paradigm** (near the corner of the 24<sup>th</sup> street and the drag).

## Basis for the course grade:

Sep 6

- 1) Students will take 2 exams, each worth 25% of the final grade. Total of 50 points.
- 2) Students will prepare and oral presentations on a topic relevant to the course subject matter and approved by the instructor. The presentations must be 10-12 minutes long in a PowerPoint format. It accounts for 20% of the final grade.
- 3) Students will write term papers on a topic similar to that of their oral presentations. The term papers must be 10-11 pages long (not including bibliography and title page), typed double-space in 12-size font. The paper must include a map created by the students, illustrating the major points of the paper's topic. Late papers will not be accepted! 30% of the final grade.

## SYLLABUS

Aug 30	Lec.1: What is the Arctic? Home or a Horizon? /Dowdeswell & Hambrey; Dobleyday
Sep 4	Lec.2: Northern Land and Seas/ lecture materials and maps

Lec.3: Routes Through the Ice: Trade and Exploration/ Vaughan: 54-71; 192-198

Sep 11	Lec.4: Ice and Permafrost/ Armstrong, xv, 8-14	
Sep 13	Lec.5: Arctic Flora and Fauna/ Armstrong: 18-19; Krupnik: 75-79	
Sep 18	Lec.6: Arctic and Subarctic Ecosystems / Moran 110-112	
Sep 20	Lec.7: Northern Peoples: Origins & Distribution/ Vaughan: 1-26	
Sep 25	Lecture 8: Human Adaptations to the North/ Moran: 112-126	
Sep 27	Lec.9: Shamanism – Religion of Nature?/ Jordan:1-19; Balzer 307-318	
Oct 2	Lec.10: Russian Manifest Destiny: Colonization of Siberia/ Slezkin: 32-61; Reid: 11-37	
Oct 4	Lec.11: Frontier Cities along the Trans-Siberian railroad/lecture materials	
0.10		
Oct 9	Exam 1	
Oct 11	Lec.12: Republic Sakha (Yakutia): Russia's Diamond Colony / Tichotsky:21-66	
Oct 16	Lec.13: Antler on the Sea: The Yup'ik and Chukchi of the Far East/ Kerttula: 81-120	
Oct 18	Lec.14: The Saami: The Indigenous People of Norden/ Beach: 223-245	
Oct 23	Lec.15: Iceland: Land of Ice and Fire/ Lecture materials and handouts	
Oct 25	Lec.16: The Kalaallit of West Greenland/ <i>Caulfield: 167-185</i>	
331.23		
Oct 30	Lec.17: Modern Treaties in the Canadian North and Indigenous Control over Mineral	
	Wealth/ <i>Saku &amp; Bone: 259-268</i>	
Nov 1	Lec.18: American Arctic: Challenges and Prospects/ Vaughan: 178-192	
Nov 6	Lec.19: Offshore oil drilling, environment and politics in the Last Frontier/ handout	
Nov 8	Lec.20: The Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands: Unique Adaptations in the Bering Sea/	

Nov 13	Exam 2
Nov 15	Students presentation and discussions
Nov 20	Student presentations and discussions
Nov 22	No class! Thanksgiving
Nov 27	Student presentations and discussions
Nov 29	Student presentations and discussions
Dec 4	Student presentations and discussions
Dec 6	Student presentations and discussions
	Term papers due!

This syllabus is subject to change!