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 24th street and the drag).

Basis for the course grade:

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.
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
Oct 9   Exam 1
Oct 11  Lec.12: Republic Sakha (Yakutia): Russia’s Diamond Colony / *Tichotsky*:21-66
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/ *Caulfield*: 167-185
Oct 30  Lec.17: Modern Treaties in the Canadian North and Indigenous Control over Mineral Wealth/ *Saku & Bone*: 259-268
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/ *Corbett & Swibold*
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!