



**Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Geography**

**University  
of Victoria**

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## **Geography 388 A01 – Regional Studies**

### **ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC**

**Spring 2015**

**Instructor:** Dr. Randall Scharien  
**Office:** DTB B122  
**Office Hours:** M 14:00-16:00  
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### **Course Description and Objectives**

The Polar Regions are no longer considered desolate unknowns of little significance beyond the fascinations of the intrepid. Compared to 60 years ago, there is increased awareness of their scientific importance within a global context, rising demand for their vast and largely undeveloped resources, and more accessibility through tourism. Along with the growth of activities in the Polar Regions are increased environmental and social risks, along with political tensions. In the Arctic, there is pressure to balance activities by largely southern-based residents with the concerns voiced by newly empowered Indigenous communities about the impacts these activities may have on their way of life. This course addresses these topics, and other physical and human dimensions of the Polar Regions, within historical, contemporary, and future contexts. We will place emphasis on Canada's unique position within the myriad of issues facing the Polar Regions, and take time to celebrate a unique region which has excited the imagination for many centuries.

### **Course Schedule and Location**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 13:30 to 14:20 in COR B129

## Readings

**Required Text:** *Antarctica: Global Science from a Frozen Continent*, ed. David W.H. Walton. Published by Cambridge University Press. © Cambridge University Press 2013.

**Readings:** Essential readings in the form of scientific and policy reports, journal articles, and book chapters will be posted on the course CourseSpaces site (<http://CourseSpaces.uvic.ca>) or made available through the course reserve in the main library. As the assigned text only covers the Antarctic region, these readings will mainly cover the Arctic and will be central to the course.

*If you come to class prepared it will be easier to remain committed to, and engaged with, the course materials throughout the term.*

**CourseSpaces:** You will be required to access the CourseSpaces site for required readings, important announcements, instructor notes, your grades, and additional information (e.g. discussion topics). Please take the time to familiarize yourself with CourseSpaces if you have not already done so.

## Grading Scheme

Tests in class (2 at 15% each)	30%
Assignments (2 at 15% each)	30%
Term Paper - Media Summary	10%
Final Exam (Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar)	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Course Topics

Topic 1:	Regional overview: contrasting the Arctic and Antarctic regions
Topic 2:	Physical environments
Topic 3:	The role of Polar Regions in the global climate system
Topic 4:	Biota
Topic 5:	Climate change and the Polar Regions
Topic 6:	Historical exploration and establishment of order
Topic 7:	People in the Polar Regions
Topic 8:	Resource development
Topic 9:	Security and Sovereignty: Canada's role in a transforming Arctic
Topic 10	Environmental risk
Topic 11	Tourism and visiting the Polar Regions

## Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Tue		Wed		Fri	
1	Jan. 6	Course overview	Jan. 7	Topic 1	Jan. 9	Topic 1
2	Jan. 13	Topic 2	Jan. 14	Topic 2	Jan. 16	Topic 2
3	Jan. 20	Topic 2	Jan. 21	Topic 2	Jan. 23	Topic 2
4	Jan. 27	Topic 3	Jan. 28	Topic 3 <b>Assignment #1 (15%) due</b>	Jan. 30	Topic 3
5	Feb. 3	Topic 4	Feb. 4	Topic 4	Feb. 6	<b>Test #1 (15%): Topics 1-3</b>
6	Feb. 10	BREAK	Feb. 11	BREAK	Feb. 13	BREAK
7	Feb. 17	Topic 5	Feb. 18	Topic 5	Feb. 20	Topic 5
8	Feb. 24	Topic 6	Feb. 25	Topic 6	Feb. 27	Topic 6
9	Mar. 3	Topic 7	Mar. 4	Topic 7 <b>Assignment #2 (15%) due</b>	Mar. 6	Guest Speaker 1
10	Mar. 10	Topic 7	Mar. 11	Topic 8	Mar. 13	Topic 8
11	Mar. 17	<b>Test #2 (15%): Topics 5-8</b>	Mar. 18	Topic 9	Mar. 20	Guest Speaker 2
12	Mar. 24	Topic 9	Mar. 25	Topic 10	Mar. 27	Topic 10
13	Mar. 31	Topic 11	Apr. 1 Last class. Course summary. <b>Term Paper – Media Summary (10%) due in class.</b>			

## Grade Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	0-49%

## Course Policies

**Collegial Respect:** You must be respectful to your colleagues and instructor at all times. Do your part to ensure a classroom environment conducive to learning. Avoid arriving late and talking, texting, or surfing the internet during class time. Cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode. Recording of lectures is strictly prohibited.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individual or group work. It involves commitment to the

values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

*The responsibility of the institution:* Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

*The responsibility of the student:* Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

*It is your responsibility to understand the University's policy on academic integrity:*  
<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014-09/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>

**Missing Exam / Late Assignment Policy:** If you have a legitimate reason to miss an exam (serious medical or compassionate circumstances) you must notify the instructor before the exam time to make alternate arrangements. Failure to do so will result in a zero mark. Late assignments are not permitted except for circumstances involving medical or compassionate reasons. In either case, written verification as proof may be requested at the discretion of the instructor.

**Accessibility:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSd) as soon as possible. The RCSd staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## Course Experience Survey (CES)

Your feedback on this course is valued. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The CES is vital to providing feedback to the instructor regarding course content and teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for future students. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be completed using your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. You will be reminded and provided detailed information nearer to the completion of this course but please be thinking about this important activity throughout its duration.

*The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.*