POLI 326 Politics of the Global Arctic

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Will Greaves

Course delivery: In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered face-to-face and on campus

Course description:
This course examines the politics of the circumpolar Arctic region and the changes it has undergone historically and, in particular, over the last 25 years. By reflecting on developments across a range of academic fields – including political science, international relations, history, political economy, environmental studies and climate change, international law, and Indigenous studies – we will discuss the ways in which the Arctic reflects global patterns and those in which it remains a unique region of the world. This course employs global and regional perspectives on the Arctic, but also highlights historical and contemporary issues in northern Canada.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Examine the historical development of the Arctic as a political region and its relationship to European imperialism, colonialism and the Cold War
- Compare the connections between Arctic and non-Arctic politics specifically in geopolitics, climate change and natural resource extraction.
- Consider both how the Arctic is affected by global forces and how development affect people, communities and states that are located far distant from the circumpolar region
- Critically analyze accounts of circumpolar politics including those from news sources, academia, think-tanks, popular culture and government

Topics may include:
Arctic Council
International law and the continental shelf
Circumpolar actors
Climate change
Natural resource development

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.