



COURSE OUTLINE

ANTH 221

SUBARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS

PREPARED BY: Norman Alexander Easton  
Instructor Name

DATE: 16 October 2014

APPROVED BY:   
Dr. Andrew Richardson, Dean

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**YUKON COLLEGE**

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Course Outline prepared by N. A. Easton, 16 October 2014

Yukon College  
P.O. Box 2799  
Whitehorse, YT  
Y1A 5K



APPLIED ARTS DIVISION  
Subarctic Archaeology  
3 Credit Course  
Winter Semester, 2015

## SUBARCTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Norman Alexander Easton

**OFFICE HOURS:** After Class

**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2410

**CLASSROOM:**

**E-MAIL:** [northeaston@gmail.com](mailto:northeaston@gmail.com)

**TIME:** 9:00 - 10:30 AM

**TELEPHONE:** Office: 668-8770

**DATES:** Tuesdays & Thursdays

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### COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the archaeological record of the North American Subarctic with special emphasis on the Beringia, including Yukon and Alaska.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first quarter of the course will review the current and past subarctic environment, the nature of indigenous social and cultural adaptations to the subarctic, the history of archaeological research in the subarctic, and special problems associated with recovering and interpreting the archaeological record in the subarctic.

The remainder of the course will present a detailed chronological overview of subarctic prehistory from the earliest known evidence, dating from the Pleistocene, to the time of European contact. Students will review primary sources related to specific sites and major interpretive frameworks. They will also engage in a project that relates to local archaeological fieldwork.

## **PREREQUISITES**

None. ANTH 103 and 220 are recommended.

## **EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY**

CAMO ANTH 200 lev (3)	CAPU ANTH 2XX (3)	SFU ARCH 1XX (3)
TRU ANTH 2XX0 (3)	TRU-OL ARCH 2XX1 (3)	TWU ANTH 100 lev (3)
UBC ANTH 2nd (3)	UFV ANTH 1XX (3)	UNBC ANTH 2XX (3)
UVIC ANTH 200 lev (1.5)		

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

With conscientious application, upon completion of this course students will:

- Have a broad understanding of the environment and historic traditional cultures of the subarctic.
- Have a broad understanding of the history of archaeological research in the subarctic, and specific challenges and responses to undertaking archaeology in high latitude environments.
- Have specific understanding of Pleistocene climates and the oscillating existence and nature of Beringia.
- Become familiar with a variety of theories relating to the occupation of high latitudes by humans and their migration into North America during the late Pleistocene.
- Develop a chronological appreciation of the broad outlines of North American subarctic culture history.

## **DELIVERY METHODS**

A combination of lectures and seminars will be used to explore concepts and data presented in the readings. Laboratory and museum studies will also be incorporated as individual term research projects.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance and Participation

Attendance is crucial. All students will be expected to attend and actively participate in class and online discussions and activities, as assigned by the instructor. The material covered in the classroom is cumulative in nature, and missing classes may put students at a disadvantage. Attendance and participation will account for 15% of the student's final grade.

### General Information

- All students are encouraged to contact the instructor with questions or concerns about the assignments and/or exams
- Requests for extensions must be made no less than three days before the due date
- One mark per calendar day will be deducted if the assignment is handed in after the due date unless an extension has been granted
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated (i.e. submitting other people's work as if it is yours). Each student must complete and submit a unique assignment separate from work submitted for credit in another class
- All written assignments must be double-spaced and typed using Times New Roman 12 point font on 8.5 x 11 page format. Spelling, grammar and content organization are reflected in the grade
- All written assignments will be submitted electronically via email to the instructor at [northeaston@gmail.com](mailto:northeaston@gmail.com) . Appropriate use of web-links within documents is encouraged
- The final examination will be written during the assigned examination period

### Specific Evaluation Methods

#### Participation

Value = 20 marks

Each of us brings unique experiences to our understanding of the readings and the topics. This mark will assess your weekly participation in the course in terms of your

contributions of informed comments to the week's topic. A satisfactory performance level will demonstrate that you have read the assigned material and can relate it to the topic. A superior performance level will seek to integrate new knowledge with that already held or recently acquired. *Archaeology is a subdiscipline of Anthropology and the integration of an anthropological perspective on the technological remains of the past is encouraged.*

### Seminar Presentations

Value = 40 marks

Throughout the course students will be responsible for the leadership of a seminar discussion of one of the week's assigned readings; this responsibility will rotate throughout the term and generally each student will be responsible for two to four readings through the course. A satisfactory performance level would include the posting of a short parestis of the reading and discussion questions prior to class on the course web page, presentation of a critical commentary which relates the material to the week's topic and previous readings, and leading of an informed discussion during the class. A superior performance level would be achieved by stimulating further discussion within the class and by relating the readings to new, unassigned readings, or previous or recently acquired knowledge on the subject.

### Culture History Chart

Value = 10 marks

Throughout the term students will be exposed to a variety of northern culture histories and details of specific major archaeological sites on the basis of which they will develop their own culture history chart. This chart will form the basis for their final examination essay question and will be submitted to the instructor at the completion of the final exam.

### Research Project

Value = 50 marks

Early in the term students will be assigned a research project relevant to ongoing local archaeological fieldwork. The exact nature of any individual project will be developed in consultation with the instructor and may include working in a group with others, depending on the nature of the project chosen. Towards the end of the term you will be expected to present a short (10-15 minute) seminar on the nature and results of your project to the class and submit a short written version of your comments. Grading of the assignments will reflect: a) satisfactory completion of the work taken on by mutual agreement (25 marks); b) your seminar presentation (15 marks); and c) original or cogent contributions to the structure, application, or analysis of the project (10 marks).

### Final Examination

Value = 80 marks

A comprehensive final examination will be written during the designated college

examination period. The exam will consist of a set of short answer questions related to assigned readings, true-false and multiple choice questions related to general aspects of subarctic archaeology, and a choice of short essay topics.

## **EVALUATION**

Grades for Anthropology 221 will be based on the cumulative percentage achieved in the following:

Attendance and Participation	20 marks	10%
Seminar Presentations	40 marks	20%
Culture History Chart	10 marks	5%
Research Project	50 marks	25%
Final Examination	80 marks	40%

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS**

There is no textbook for this course. Weekly readings will be electronically distributed as PDFs and internet links and supplementary materials will be available in the archaeology lab.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or

lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

## **WRITING CENTRE**

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: [www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student\\_info/pages/writing\\_centre](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre).

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Weekly Syllabus for Subarctic Archaeology

#### Week 1

Definition of Subarctic. Ecological vrs. Cultural. Overview of Subarctic paleo-ecology. Historic populations (linguistic and cultural).

#### Week 2

Human adaptations to the Boreal Forest. Resources and strategies for survival. Human social and political organization in the subarctic. The ethnographic analogy.

#### Week 3

History of Archaeological research. Special problems related to research in the subarctic

#### Week 4

The early archaeological record in Western Beringia. Definition and time frame. The Northeast Asia evidence. Early human migration(s) to North America.

#### Week 5

The early archaeological record in Eastern Beringia. Alaskan and Yukon evidence.

#### Week 6

Late Pleistocene - Early Holocene occupations in the Western Subarctic. Northern Cordilleran and Microblade Technologies.

#### Week 7

Early Holocene Occupations in the Subarctic Shield. Northern Plano tradition and Acasta.

#### Week 8

Mid-Holocene occupations in the Western Subarctic. Northern Archaic. Northwest Microblade.

#### Week 9

Mid-Holocene occupations in the Subarctic Shield. The Shield Archaic. Paleo-Eskimo.

#### Week 10

The Late Prehistoric Period in the Western Subarctic. The Athapaskan Question.

#### Week 11

The Late Prehistoric Period in the Subarctic Shield. Taltheilei, Laurel, Blackduck, and Selkirk.

#### Week 12

Historic Archaeology in the Subarctic. Unresolved questions in Subarctic Archaeology.

#### Week 13

Contemporary archaeological research in the Yukon. Oral History and Prehistory. The Yukon Land Claim and Archaeology. Possible directions for future research.