REE 345/ GRG 356T/EUS 346 **Northern Lands & Cultures** Fall 2013

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

Office hours: Wednesday 12:45-2:45 in Burdine 470

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.

S Y L L A B U S

Aug 29 Lec.1: What is the Arctic? Home or a Horizon? /*Dowdeswell & Hambrey; Dobleyday*

Sep 3 Lec.2: Northern Land and Seas/ lecture materials and maps

Sep 5 Lec.3: Routes Through the Ice: Trade and Exploration/ *Vaughan: 54-71; 192-198*

Sep 10 Lec.4: Ice and Permafrost/ *Armstrong, xv, 8-14*

Sep 12 Lec.5: Arctic Flora and Fauna/ *Armstrong: 18-19; Krupnik: 75-79*

Sep 17 Lec.6: Arctic and Subarctic Ecosystems / *Moran* 110-112

Sep 19 Lec.7: Northern Peoples: Origins & Distribution/ *Vaughan: 1-26*

Sep 24 Lecture 8: Human Adaptations to the North/ *Moran: 112-126*

Sep 26 Lec.9: Shamanism – Religion of Nature?/ *Jordan:1-19; Balzer 307-318*

Oct 1 Lec.10: Russian Manifest Destiny: Colonization of Siberia/ *Slezkin: 32-61; Reid: 11-37*

Oct 3 Lec.11: Frontier Cities along the Trans-Siberian railroad/ lecture materials

Oct 8 **Exam 1**

Oct 10 Lec.12: Republic Sakha (Yakutia): Russia's Diamond Colony / *Tichotsky:21-66*

Oct 15 Lec.13**:** Antler on the Sea: The Yup'ik and Chukchi of the Far East*/ Kerttula: 81-120*

Oct 17 Lec.14: The Saami: The Indigenous People of Norden/ *Beach: 223-245*

Oct 22 Lec.15: Iceland: Land of Ice and Fire/ Lecture materials and handouts

Oct 24 Lec.16: The Kalaallit of West Greenland/ *Caulfield: 167-185*

Oct 29 Lec.17: Modern Treaties in the Canadian North and Indigenous Control over Mineral Wealth/ *Saku & Bone: 259-268*

Oct 31 Lec.18: American Arctic: Challenges and Prospects/ *Vaughan: 178-192*

Nov 5 Lec.19: Offshore oil drilling, environment and politics in the Last Frontier/ handout

Nov 7 Lec.20: The Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands: Unique Adaptations in the Bering Sea/ *Corbett & Swibold*

Nov 12	**Exam 2**
Nov 14	Students presentation and discussions
Nov 19	Student presentations and discussions
Nov 21	Student presentations and discussions
Nov 26	Student presentations and discussions
Nov 28	**No class! Thanksgiving**
Dec 3	Student presentations and discussions
Dec 5	Student presentations and discussions
	Term papers due!

This syllabus is subject to change!