

BCS 100 Introduction to the Circumpolar World

Introduces students to the landscape, peoples, and issues of the Circumpolar region. Beginning with an examination of the geography, biological, and physical systems of the Subarctic and Arctic, the course then turns to the Indigenous and contemporary peoples of the region.



Arctic landscape (Source: <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/701664>)

Module 1: Introduction to the Circumpolar North

What are the key differences between traditional knowledge and western scientific knowledge?

Article: *Traditional Knowledge About Polar Bears (Ursus maritimus) in East Greenland: Changes in the Catch and Climate Over Two Decades:*

(See Kristin Laidre et al. *Traditional Knowledge About Polar Bears (Ursus maritimus) in East Greenland: Changes in the Catch and Climate Over Two Decades*. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, Mar. Sci., 11 May 2018 Sec. Global Change and the Future Ocean Volume 5 - 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2018.00135>)

Video: Understanding Indigenous Science (See <https://youtu.be/fOMJqshXsoY?si=7K0IC2R502dWr2vj>)

Video: Qapirangajuq: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATMJmlfbXRo>)

Module 2 and 3: Northern Perceptions/ Northern Environments

Differing perspectives of the land and place – videos that show different realities

Video: Greenpeace International. *A journey to the Arctic*

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTq7HkixZGc>)

Video: Swedish Lapland Visitors Board (2020). *A hymn to home*

(See <https://vimeo.com/367966969>).

Explaining the importance of the physical environment and impacts of a changing physical environment on Indigenous Peoples.

Article: The Changing Arctic: Indigenous Perspectives.

(See Henry Huntington and Shari Fox. The Changing Arctic: Indigenous Perspectives. ACIA. Chapter 3. <https://www.amap.no/documents/download/1084/inline>)

Module 4: People and Cultures of the Circumpolar People

Recent trends in the changing demography of Indigenous People and their well-being in the circumpolar region

Article: Towards estimating the indigenous population in circumpolar regions.

(see T. Kue Young and Peter Bjerregaard. Towards Estimating the indigenous Population in Circumpolar Regions. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH 2019, VOL. 78, 1653749. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/22423982.2019.1653749?needAccess=true>)

Exploring contemporary Indigenous society

Video: *I am Sami* (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c18xNxFUSY&t=200s>)

Video: *Borderline Intersections: Social Landscapes of Contemporary Sami Identity*

(See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y5nK_luryk)

Module 5: Contemporary Economic Activity

Are traditional Indigenous economies still practiced and important to the circumpolar region?

Indigenous economies

Article: *Indigenous economies in the Arctic: To thrive or to survive?*

(see Gladun, E, et al. 2021. Indigenous economies in the Arctic: To thrive or to survive?. Elem Sci Anth, 9: 1. [ELEMENTA D 19 00088 1..21](https://doi.org/10.21961/elementa.d19.00088) (silverchair.com)

Video: *Promoting the Traditional Ways of Life of Arctic Indigenous Peoples*
<https://vimeo.com/125676295>

Module 6: Political Systems

Enduring systems of colonization and resource extractivism from around the circumpolar region

Article: Globalizing Extraction and Indigenous Rights in the Russian Arctic: The Enduring Role of the State in Natural Resource Governance (mdpi.com)

(See Svetlana A' Tulaeva et al. Globalizing Extraction and Indigenous Rights in the Russian Arctic: The Enduring Role of the State in Natural Resource Governance. *Resources* **2019**, 8(4), 179; <https://www.mdpi.com/2079-9276/8/4/179>)

Video: *Can Arctic Sámi Parliaments Defend Their Way of Life from Green Developments?*
(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMXIS5Sllv4>)

What does Sami self-government look like?

Video: *Norway's Indigenous advisory body for the Sami*

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNoT08xMsxs>)

Module 7 and 8: Climate Change

Documenting social changes from an Inuit perspective

Article: *All the problems in the community are multifaceted and related to each other": Inuit concerns in an era of climate change*

(See Elspeth Ready and Peter Collings. "All the problems in the community are multifaceted and related to each other": Inuit concerns in an era of climate change. *Am J Hum Biol.* 2021;33:e23516). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23516>

Documenting physical impacts from an Inuit perspective

Video: Inuit Observations on Climate Change

(See [Inuit Observations on Climate Change - Full-Length Version - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...))

Documenting climate change from a Sami perspective

Video: Sweden's Indigenous Sami People threatened by climate change

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6RC-RzBl1k>)

Module 8: Stewardship of Resources and Sustainable development

Ecosystems and resilience

Article: Ecosystem stewardship: A resilience framework for arctic conservation

(See F. Stuart Chaplin et al. Ecosystem stewardship: A resilience framework for arctic conservation. *Global Environmental Change* Volume 34, September 2015, Pages 207-217. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S095937801530011X?via%3Dihub>)

Stewardship

Video: *The Climate and Us: What Indigenous knowledge can teach us about land stewardship in the Arctic.*

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o30bpl6n8FM&t=23s>)

Module 9: Northern Governance

Evolving Indigenous international influence and the challenges of Inuit self-governance

Self-determination

Article: Self Determination and Indigenous Governance in the Arctic

(See Mark S. Nuttall, Self-determination and indigenous governance in the Arctic *Routledge Handbook of Polar regions*, Nuttall et. Al. eds., <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315730639-6/self-determination-indigenous-governance-arctic-mark-nuttall>)

Video: Inuit: The Arctic We Want – video with many difference speakers and presentations.

(See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQ9CxaZY6tU&t=236s>)

Module 10: Geopolitics, Security and International Society

Securing rights

Article: Securing the Rights: A Human Security Perspective in the Context of Arctic Indigenous Peoples

(See K Hossain Securing the Rights: A Human Security Perspective in the Context of Arctic Indigenous Peoples. *The Yearbook of Polar Law Online*, 5(1), 493-522. <https://doi.org/10.1163/22116427-91000134>)

Indigenous perspectives on security

Article: *Human Security of Inuit and Sámi in the 21st Century: The Canadian and Finnish Cases*

(See Celine Rodrigues, Human Security of Inuit and Sámi in the 21st Century: The Canadian and Finnish Cases. Vol 12 (2024): *Arctic Regional Governance: Actors and Transformations*. <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/article/view/7254>)

Video: *Nilliajut: Inuit Voices on Arctic Security*

(See [VN 000355 L65 CB283 16x9 3m30s 230620M \(youtube.com\)](#))