

Circumpolar Studies exemplar course:

## **Representations of the Circumpolar North in Literature, Film & Popular Culture**

### **Suggested Assessment Scheme**

Given the very broad scope of this exemplar course and resources, instructors of this course are encouraged to tailor the materials and assessment scheme to the contexts and cultures of their own students. In general, tasks and assignments which encourage students to make connections between the course texts, discussions, topics - and elements of their own lives and identities have the most impact.

#### **Suggested Assignments:**

##### **Short response** (could be written, audio, video)

On one week of your choosing during the semester, submit a 2 page response paper on that day's assigned texts and topic. You are free to decide for which week you'll write, but you must turn in your short response papers by the end of term. It's up to you to decide what's important enough for a 2-page reflection. In some cases, it might be useful to spend your pages making sense of the reading. Over the course of the semester, we'll accumulate a collection of themes, terms and concepts that will help us to critically consider 'the North' as represented in literature, film and television.

##### **Presentations** (encourage students to bring in their own 'Northern' texts)

Each student will be responsible for introducing and presenting a reading(s). Presentations should include a visual component in the form of media or slides and be around 15 minutes. Your task is to offer opening observations of your text, give some context and background information about the author or genre, interpret and make connections with other texts we have read. Finally, you should introduce a few questions to get us going.

During presentations, each student will also briefly introduce the class to one work **not on the syllabus** that they believe connects to the course topics, and to their experience of the Circumpolar North and how it is often represented in popular culture. You should take around 5 minutes to tell us about this text and make a compelling case for its place in our course. You may

interpret 'text' widely to include not only literature, but also film, video, art, music, multimedia, oral narratives, dance, ceremony – the possibilities are almost limitless.

### **Synthesis Essay**

Students will write one longer (8-10 page) essay for the course on a topic of interest to them that has arisen out of discussions and texts in this course.

Depending on the student competencies and course disciplinary contexts, essays might be substituted for multimedia or portfolio assignments instead.