COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar course integrates social science research on rural and small town change within the context of northern communities. Issues may include work, housing, gender, ethnicity, social services provision, community conflict, and quality of life. The course will emphasize case study research within theoretical frameworks, and will draw especially upon examples from northern British Columbia.

CORE TEXTS:

There is no textbook for this class. However, some texts are on reserve in the library as we will use several readings from each.


*In bookstore, and on reserve for GEOG 424

Additional readings are on reserve in the library or available through one of UNBC’s on-line e-resource options. For more information on copyright, please see:

The UNBC Copyright Libguide:
http://libguides.unbc.ca/content.php?pid=190813&sid=1600458
CLASS MEETINGS:
Monday 2:30 to 5:20 pm 10-4560

EVALUATION:
Required class reading summaries 20%
Annotated research bibliography 30%
Case study report 30%
Book Review I 10%
Book Review II 10%

OFFICE HOURS:
Tues & Thurs 4:00 - 5:00 pm

OFFICE:
New Lab Building 8-141
Tel: (250) 960-5826
FAX: (250) 960-6533
E-mail: halseth@unbc.ca
http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/

E-MAIL:
We will establish an E-mail list for this class. This will allow various information and material, such as messages I receive from a number of rural and community studies electronic mail lists, to be shared quickly and easily.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:
This course is a university graduate seminar and students are expected to contribute to the intellectual direction of the course and lectures. It is expected that students will have a well developed sense of their own research direction and, therefore, the course is designed to allow them scope to develop that interest. The students may use this course to further their understanding of a body of literature which CONNECTS their area of interest to rural and small town geography.

Course delivery will be through interacting modules.

1) Background readings and lectures will explore theoretical and applied aspects of rural and small town research. For our purposes, this means that the instructor is responsible for core material on the geography of rural and small town places which will form a common foundation for the course. Students are responsible for developing a research bibliography for their area of interest building upon this foundation.

2) The case study content will focus upon specific examples from northern British Columbia and will link the theoretical and applied research literatures to the student’s research topic.

3) The book reviews will provide a second venue for students to pursue topics of interest to them and their thesis work.
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WRITING:
Please note that for all written material submitted in this course you are expected to write grammatically and use an accepted referencing system. Assistance in this area is readily available at UNBC.

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Required Class Reading Summaries  20%  On-going
As a university graduate seminar, students are expected to contribute to the intellectual direction of the course by presenting and leading the discussion on core readings. Students will each take turns being responsible for leading the weekly discussion of assigned readings. This is important since background readings explore theoretical and applied aspects of rural and small town geographic research. Grading on presentations will be done by the instructor with the assistance of peer review.

Annotated research bibliography  30%  Due: February 4, 2013
As noted, it is expected that students will have a well developed sense of their own research direction. One way to help the students use this course to further their understanding of a body of literature which connects their area with rural and small town geography is through the creation of an annotated bibliography. Students are responsible for developing a research bibliography for their area of interest building upon this foundation.

Case study report  30%  Due: April 8, 2013
The case study content will focus upon specific examples from northern British Columbia and will link the theoretical and applied research literatures to the student’s research topic. A discussion of theory is required, and a range of sources, from the Census and other Statistics Canada products to material from BC Stats and other provincial government sources to various local publications are available to inform the empirical side of the case study report.

Book Review I  10%  Due: January 21, 2013
A 5 page, double spaced, book review is to be completed for an academic book which has published research findings, issues, or ideas of interest to your own area of interest. You must check your book selection with the instructor. Please use a book review format suitable to a scholarly journal publishing material in your research area.

Book Review II  10%  Due: Feb 25, 2013
A 5 page, double spaced, book review is to be completed for an academic book which has published research findings, issues, or ideas of interest to your own area of interest. You must check your book selection with the instructor. Please use a book review format suitable to a scholarly journal publishing material in your research area.
LATE POLICY:

There are good reasons to request an extension (e.g., illness or family misfortune). However, bad planning (e.g., having several assignments due that week and leaving this one to last) or confused priorities (e.g., placing non-academic activities before academic requirements) are not good reasons. Students will be treated sympathetically if they have a good reason and contact the instructor prior to the due date. Otherwise, no required assignment will be accepted late.

Academic Success Centre services
The Learning Skills Centre supports academic excellence among students from first year through to graduate studies. If you need or want to improve your academic standing, please stop by the Learning Skills Centre.

www.unbc.ca/lsc

ASD and Asperger's

A recent report released by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario finds that number of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Asperger's entering into college or university are rising. Disability Services has a number of resources available:

See also:
http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/home/pedagogicthemes/accessibility/aspergerssyndrome

Access Resource Centre
If there are students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for special academic accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, or contact the Access Resource Centre located in the Teaching and Learning Centre, Room 10-1048.

Brenda Christensen
Access Coordinator
Room 10-1048
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way Phone: (250) 960-6711
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9 Fax: (250) 960-5775
http://www.unbc.ca/arc
Email: christb@unbc.ca
Plagiarism

Plagiarism means representing someone else’s work as your own. It is a serious offence, punishable by academic sanctions. When you incorporate the words, ideas, graphics, or other products from someone else’s work into your projects, you must give credit by providing a citation and reference to the source work.

It is your responsibility to:
- understand what plagiarism is,
- be familiar with and understand the information on plagiarism provided by the Learning Skills Centre at their website (www.unbc.ca/lsc),
- be familiar with the UNBC policy on Student Conduct, and on plagiarism and other academic offences, as described in the UNBC Undergraduate Calendar (section 45 Academic Offences: http://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/general/regulations.html)

It is strongly recommended that you consult:
DE LOE, ROB (n.d.) Guidelines for Preparing Effective Essays and Reports. Department of Geography, University of Guelph. (about $2 in the bookstore or http://www.uoguelph.ca/~rdeloe/writing_guide/)

Students are reminded that submitting for credit any academic work which has been submitted (or where credit has already been obtained) in another course is listed among academic offences.

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Please also see the “Student Conduct Statement of Principles” in the on-line Calendar: http://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/general/regulations.html
This course has heavy reading and writing components. Your reading assignments will revolve around a set of core readings, listed below, which shall make up the material to be discussed in the classes. The second body of reading will centre upon a research literature from your area of interest.

INTRODUCTION
1 Introduction - geography / rural & small town settlements


2 Defining rural and small town settlements


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**SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS**

**3 Settlement system concepts**


**4 Rural – urban settlement system models**


5/6 Structure and function of rural and small town settlements

Agricultural


Resource based


Amenity


Rural fringe


COMPONENTS

7 Economic structures of rural and small town settlements


8 Social structures of rural and small town settlements


9 Services structures of rural and small town settlements


10 Political structures of rural and small town settlements


11 Community and society in rural and small town settlements


RETHINKING THE RURAL/SMALL TOWN COMMUNITY
12 Rethinking rurality and rural research

