

Course description

History of the Arctic and the Northern Areas

1. **Course name, ECTS, quarter/semester, contact hours**

History of the Arctic and the Northern Areas, 6 ECTS, quarter 3, 44 contact hours

2. **Author of the course**

Julia Lajus, Associate Professor, School for Social Sciences and Humanities, National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Academic Head of International MA Programme in Applied and Interdisciplinary History "Usable Pasts"
<http://spb.hse.ru/en/ma/apphist/>

email: jlajus@hse.ru

3. **Outline**

This course provides the general history of the Northern areas of our planet in the perspective of transnational, comparative and global history. This course focuses on the economic, social, environmental, political and cultural history of the Circumpolar North. It introduces a wide interdisciplinary view on diverse human experiences in the North, problems of regional history, the North in the light of highly required interdisciplinary expertise in administrating, resource management, and regional studies. Within the course students will learn about key works and directions in circumpolar studies.

The course will examine such themes as the interplay between the outside, expert and indigenous knowledge, expectations and experiences in the North. It will focus on both human and non-human connections in history of the area. Key historical trends will be examined to demonstrate how the North was incorporated into nation-states that govern the circumpolar regions of the world. The course will locate the development of the North in larger historical trends of colonial and post-colonial studies, history of science and exploration, technology and environment, international efforts in region-building in the Arctic and national concerns of different states on security, resources and human-being in the North.

4. **Structure and content**

The course includes the following main sections:

Topic 1. Introduction to studies of the Circumpolar North: key dates and history. History of the North in the framework of colonial and post-colonial studies. Different meanings of the North and the Arctic in Scandinavian, Canadian, Russian history. Circumpolar North vs Arctic: region-building processes in the second half of the 20th century.

Topic 2. Role of natural resources and environment in the history of the Circumpolar North. Experts knowledge in exploration and the exploitation of the North. History of the Arctic Ocean.

Topic 3. Peoples and cultures in the context of polar history. Indigenous knowledge vs expert knowledge.

Topic 4. History of international relations, international organizations, scientific activities and modes of governance (Arctic Council, International Polar Years etc.) in the Arctic. Comparative history of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Literature:

1. Barr, S. and Luedecke, C. (ed.). *The History of the International Polar Years (IPYs)// Series: From Pole to Pole*. Berlin, Heidelberg, 2010.
 2. Bravo, M. and S. Sörlin (eds). *Narrating the Arctic. A Cultural History of Nordic Scientific Practices*. Canton, 2002.
 3. Forsyth, J. *A History of the Peoples of Siberia: Russia's North Asian Colony 1581-1990*. Cambridge, 1992.
 4. Freeman, M. (ed.) *Endangered Peoples of the Arctic: Struggles to Survive and Thrive*. Westport, Connecticut, and London, 2000.
 5. Jorgensen, D. and Sörlin, S. (eds.). *Northscapes: History, Technology, and the Making of Northern Environments*. Vancouver, 2013.
 6. Keskitalo, E. C. H. *Negotiating the Arctic. The Construction of an International Region*. New York and London, 2004.
 7. Keskitalo, E. C. H. *Climate Change and Globalization in the Arctic: An Integrated Approach to Vulnerability Assessment*. London, 2008.
 8. Krupnik, Igor, *Arctic Adaptations: Native Whalers and Reindeer Herders of Northern Eurasia*. Hanover, NH, 1993.
 9. Lajus, J. "Colonization of the Russian North: a Frozen Frontier" in Folke-Ax, C., Brimnes, N., Jensen, N. and Oslund, K. (eds.) *Cultivating the Colony: Colonial States and their Environmental Legacies*. Athens OH; Ohio University Research in International Studies, Global and Comparative Study Series, no. 12, 2011, pp. 164-90.
 10. Nuttall, M. and Callaghan, T. (eds.). *Arctic: Environment, People, Policy*. Amsterdam, 2000.
 11. Osherenko, Gail and Oran R. Young, *The Age of the Arctic: Hot Conflicts and Cold Realities*. Cambridge, U.K., 1989.
 12. Slezkine, Y. *Arctic Mirrors: Russia and the Small Peoples of the North*. Cornell, 1996.
 13. Sörlin, S. (ed.). *Science, Geopolitics and Culture in the Polar Region: Norden beyond Borders*. Farnham, 2013.
 14. Wynn, G. *Canada and Arctic North America: An Environmental History*. NY, 2006.
5. **Prerequisites:** no prerequisites except knowledge of English not lower than upper-intermediate level
6. **Assessment**
- Coursework 2000-word essays (40%):
- Oral examination in a form of project presentation (30%)
- Class participation mark (30%)