

# HONORS 264

## NORTHERN EXPOSURES



*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4-6:00 p.m., Alex & Ani 140*

<http://eng261.blogspot.com>

There are few places left on earth where simply going there seems extraordinary – but a trip north of the Arctic Circle still seems to signify the experience of something astonishing. This course takes up the history of human exploration and interaction in the eastern Arctic, from the early days of the nineteenth century to the present, with a focus on contact between European and American explorers and the Eskimo, or *Inuit* as they are more properly known today. We'll read first-hand accounts and view documentaries as well as dramatic films that recount these histories, both from Western and Inuit perspectives. With each new reading or viewing, you'll have the opportunity to respond on our class blog. There will also be a formal paper of 4-6 pages on a topic of the student's choosing (in consultation with the instructor).

### Course Texts

Jonathan Krakauer, *Into the Wild*  
Kenn Harper, *Minik, the New York Eskimo*  
Lawrence Millman, *A Kayak Full of Ghosts*

### C O U R S E   S C H E D U L E

#### Week One

December 26 *Into the Wild*. Reading: Krakauer, *Into the Wild*. You will need to view the film on your own.

December 27 *The Franklin Mystery*. You will need to view one of the Franklin documentaries on your own; we will view highlights only in class. Reading: Potter, "The Man Who Ate His Boots" (blog link)

#### Week Two

January 2 *Minik's story*. Reading: Harper, *Minik, the New York Eskimo*.

January 3 *Nanook of the North*. You will need to view the film on your own; we will look at highlights only in class. Readings: Flaherty, "How I Filmed Nanook of the North," Louis Menand, "Nanook and Me" (blog links).

#### **Week Three**

January 8 *A Kayak Full of Ghosts*. We'll discuss the stories in the book, with author Lawrence Millman.

January 9 *Arctic Exiles and Sovereignty*. You will need to view the film *Exile* on your own, along with selected shorter readings linked from the main blog post.

January 10 *The North Today*. Readings on the issues: healthcare, mental health care, Arctic adventure cruises, and recent items from the Nunatsiag News (all on blog).

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Responses. For each class meeting, a brief response is required on our course blog, with the exception of the last class, for a total of seven responses. These can, and should, be informal and conversational in tone, and you are encouraged to respond to other students who have posted (the blog will automatically thread discussions if you use the "reply" window. Please note that the blog required you to accept "cookies" on your browser for it to work.

2. Paper. There is one formal paper for this class, of 4-6 pages in length. The topic is open to anything connected with the content and broader themes of the course, including but not limited to our three course books, and our films. I encourage anyone enrolled in a professional program, such as nursing, education, or social work to consider a topic relating your field of study to the Arctic – there are many issues related to healthcare, social welfare, and education that have a unique set of challenges in the Canadian Arctic. Topics should be chosen no later than January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and sent to me via e-mail for approval; I may make suggestions as to the specific focus of the essay, and will also offer resources, both at Adams Library and online, to assist you in your research.

### **CLASS POLICIES**

**CLASSROOM COURTESY:** No electronic devices may be used in class; computers and cellphones must be closed/turned off. Idle chatter will not be permitted – our time is valuable, and we are here to discuss, engage, and connect with the text at hand, and with each other.

**INTELLECTUAL HONESTY:** Please read the student handbook and acquaint yourself with the definition of academic dishonesty. Representing the work of others as your own in written work counts as academic dishonesty, and will result in an automatic grade of "F." All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the Chair of the English Department.