

# ENGLISH 261

## ARCTIC ENCOUNTERS



**Monday & Wednesday, 2:00-3:50, Gaige 100**

<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 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. Each week, you'll have the opportunity to respond to that week's readings or viewings on our class blog. There will be a mid-term essay, as well as a final paper involving additional research in primary and secondary sources.

### **Course Texts**

Jonathan Krakauer, *Into the Wild*

Kenn Harper, *Minik: The New York Eskimo: An Arctic Explorer, a Museum, and the Betrayal of the Inuit People*

Lawrence Millman, *A Kayak Full of Ghosts*

Penny Patrone, *Northern Voices: Inuit Writings in English*

*Selected online texts as noted on blog*

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week I (August 28, 30). NO CLASS WEEK ONE (I will still be up in the Arctic on a ship, hopefully not one that's crushed by icebergs!

Week II (Sept. 10). NO CLASS MONDAY (Labor Day). Wednesday: First half of *Into the Wild* (book); start *Into the Wild* (movie)