



ORTM 414-3: Polar Tourism and Recreation
Instructor: Pat Maher
Winter Semester 2010: January 4th - April 9th, 2010
Online via UNBC's Blackboard system

****NOTE:** This course is also available as a graduate level course (ORTM 614-3) if there is interest. Please contact Pat about this option as the topic would be the same, but assignments and level of discussion would be tailored to the graduate level and the student's interests.

Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide an overview of tourism and recreation in the Polar Regions, concentrating on issues such as shared management and sovereignty; tensions between science and tourism; adventure and expeditionary tourism and recreation; the logistical challenges of operating in such remote environments; and the impacts tourism and recreation have in the Polar Regions. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Distinguish between the different physical, social and political contexts present in the Polar Regions;
2. Recognize the differences and similarities in tourism and recreation between these two regions, and with other regions of the world;
3. Evaluate the role tourism and recreation play in the livelihood of communities in these regions;
4. Appraise the logistical complexity necessary to undertake tourism and recreation in these regions;
5. Recognize the collaboration and partnerships necessary to share management and sovereignty in these regions.

Pedagogical Outcomes

At the completion of this course, you should have:

1. Been encouraged to be self-directed in choosing reading material and connecting it intellectually to the required reading and focus of the course;
2. Developed the critical skills in synthesizing the material you read;
3. Been encouraged to take part in senior level discussion of the course materials;
4. Developed research and writing skills to a 4th year level.

A more detailed course syllabus outlining specific assignments and such will be available on Blackboard at the start of the course.

Costs

The cost to enroll in ORTM 414-3 is the standard UNBC tuition rate for a 3 credit class, plus the associated fees for taking a class. If you take only this one university class then the costs are approximately \$690 for Canadian students. For students enrolled in multiple classes at UNBC, or their own institution, the charges are based on the credit hours (\$444) as other fees are paid only once per semester/year. International students should contact the UNBC Registrar's office directly for tuition rate details.

Textbooks

There is no text book for this class – readings will be made available as PDF files through Blackboard.

How to Enroll

As a UNBC student, simply enroll as you normally would.

Below are the standard university practices for non-UNBC students to enroll in classes. I realize that these procedures may not work for everyone so please contact me if you have any trouble.

Visiting Student (on a Letter of Permission) from another Canadian University

Students who are enrolled and in good standing at another college or university may attend UNBC on a letter of permission from their home institution. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they meet any course prerequisites. Individuals planning to attend UNBC on a Letter of Permission should complete an application for admission, pay the application fee, and arrange to have the Letter of Permission sent, along with a copy of their most recent transcript, directly to the Office of the Registrar. Facsimile versions of this information will be acceptable on a provisional basis subject to receipt of the original. The following minimum conditions will apply to all applicants under this category of admission:

- ❖ applicants must be in good academic standing at a Canadian university
- ❖ the cumulative grade point average must be at least 2.0 (C)
- ❖ no credit will be awarded for any course with a grade of less than 0.67(D-)

Mature Student Entry

Each mature student application will be reviewed on its own merits. Mature applicants must be:

- ❖ Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada
- ❖ out of school for at least three years
- ❖ 21 years of age on or before the first day of classes

Students must submit transcripts of any post-secondary work that they have completed for the purpose of prerequisite checks, and a résumé of both academic and other activities (employment, service, etc.) for the past three years.

Interest Only (Canadian or International Students)

Students who do not intend to pursue a degree or certificate program at UNBC, but want to take courses for credit, may do so under the category of Interest Only to a maximum of 30 credits, provided they have not previously been refused admission to UNBC under any other category. This category of admission permits easy access to UNBC studies as minimal documentation at the point of entry is required.

Interest only students must:

- ❖ Enroll on a part-time basis at UNBC (less than 9 credit hours)
- ❖ Re-apply every semester
- ❖ Obtain a minimum semester grade point average of 2.00 in order to remain eligible for re-entry under this category.

Note:

1. Interest Only students who wish to continue their studies beyond 30 credit hours in pursuit of a UNBC credential must re-apply, meet the general admission requirements as stated in the Calendar and, as applicable, declare a Major (see Academic Regulation 20).
2. Applicants whose first language is not English should refer to the section *English Language Requirements*.

3. Applicants previously or currently on academic probation or required to withdraw are not eligible to apply for admission or re-entry under this category.

Special Entry

Where applicants do not meet the requirements under any specific category of admission, or where there are extenuating circumstances, application may be made under the category of Special Entry. In these instances, applicants will be assessed on an individual basis and may be asked to provide:

- ❖ any and all academic transcripts
- ❖ a résumé of both academic and other activities (employment, service, etc.) for the past three years

In addition, applicants under this category may be asked to present themselves for an interview. Normally, special entry students will enroll on a part-time basis for at least one semester.

Any admissions conditions involving the achievement of a specific grade point average will be reviewed after the first semester. The normal requirement to continue studies would be a C average in a course load not to exceed six credit hours. Failure to achieve the required grade point average will result in further registration being denied. Once admissions requirements are cleared, the student will proceed as a regular UNBC student.

Technical Aspects -- What do you need to take this course?

This course will be offered in a distributed e-learning format using both the university supported web platform (Blackboard) as well as a system called Elluminate, which gives us a method to interact in a live platform over the web. Below are the hardware and software requirements you will need to take this class. Please check this list to make sure you have what you need.

In order to use Elluminate, you will need to have the minimum technology requirements specified below:

- * At least 20 MB of free space on your computer
 - * A soundcard, speakers and microphone If you are using a laptop, or if your monitor/computer has a built-in microphone, it is recommended to not use these. Instead to use an external microphone, which will ensure that you can be heard clearly by all other participants (plug in external mic before running Elluminate).
 - * A minimum of a 56Kbps modem (broadband access (cable modem/DSL) is recommended)
- Minimum hardware requirements

For Windows-based computers

- * Windows 2000/XP/Vista
- * Pentium III 500 MHz processor
- * 256 MB RAM

For Mac-based computers

- * Mac OS 10.2.8 or higher
- * G3, G4, G5 or Intel processor
- * 256 MB