

SPRING 2016

ARCTIC 401: CANADA & U.S. CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

TUESDAYS 9:30-12:20 | SMI 105 | 3 CREDITS | SNL 10426

INSTRUCTOR: HEATHER NICOL, 2015-16 CANADA FULBRIGHT VISITING CHAIR IN ARCTIC STUDIES



This course explores the work of the Arctic Council from the perspective of the way in which it embodies Canadian and American interests, reflects differences in the Northern policy goals of each nation, and structures American and Canadian relations in the Arctic. The emphasis is on the big picture and the context in which the Arctic Council continues to evolve both as an international organization and as an organization which brokers Canada-US regional interests in the North. We will explore the history of US and Canadian interest in developing the Arctic Council, similarities and commonalities in perspective in the early years, the rise of a sustainable development agenda and the different national narratives on sustainability which have subsequently developed. Particular attention is paid to the transition of the Arctic Council Chairmanship from Canada to the United States in 2014. What might be the legacy of this North American period of Chairmanship in general;? How does it compare to past North American periods of Chairmanship?



HEATHER NICOL IS A PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AT TRENT UNIVERSITY IN PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO WHERE HER TEACHING AND RESEARCH FOCUSES ON GEOPOLITICS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC REGION. NICOL IS A MEMBER OF UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC'S THEMATIC NETWORK, GEOPOLITICS AND SECURITY. NICOL'S RESEARCH EXPLORES THE STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS THAT ORIENT THE POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE NORTH AMERICAN ARCTIC AND CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS.

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