

ARCTIC STUDIES - CERTIFICATE

The Department of Geography (GEOG) offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate in Arctic Studies, in collaboration with the Program in Nordic Studies (SCAN), the International Affairs Program (IAFS), the Department of Environmental Studies (ENVS), the Department of Anthropology (ANTH), the Department of Ethnic Studies (ETHN) and the research entities of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) and the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR).

This certificate prepares students to address pressing environmental, political and cultural issues in the far north. A laboratory for studying the effects of global climate change, the Arctic region spans three continents, with territories in Canada, Greenland (Denmark), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the United States. Its population exhibits considerable ethnic, linguistic and sociopolitical diversity, and contains numerous indigenous peoples. Issues as critical as nationalism, territorial rights and law, security, economic development and resource technology place the arctic at the center of global, regional and national interests. Further, the region's natural and social characteristics have inspired influential and enduring expressive culture—produced by locals and outsiders—from antiquity to the present.

These features make study of the arctic ideal for students pursuing careers in international politics and diplomacy, indigenous rights, environmental science and climate change, humanistic scholarship or creative work.

For more information, and to apply to the certificate in arctic studies, please contact Professor Mark Serreze (<https://www.colorado.edu/geography/mark-serreze-0/>) at serreze@nsidc.org

Requirements

The certificate is open to all CU undergraduates and requires the completion of six courses for a total of 18 credit hours.

Credit hours are distributed in three categories: (1) certificate core courses, (2) environment and policy and (3) Culture and Society. Students must complete all three courses in the core category and one course in each of the other two categories plus one elective course. Only one 1000-level course is allowed. Nine of the 18 credits must be upper-division.

Up to three credits of approved study abroad experience may be applied to either the environment and policy or culture and society categories.

Required Courses and Credit Hours

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Core Courses		
GEOG 2271	Introduction to the Arctic Environment	3
IAFS/SCAN 3631	Arctic Society and Culture	3
PSCI 3206	The Environment and Public Policy	3
Society and Culture		3-6
<i>One course required, plus one elective in this category or in the Environment and Policy category</i>		
ETHN 2013	Critical Issues in Native North America	
GEOG 3882	Geography of the Former Soviet Union	

REES 2501	Russia Beyond the Headlines: Media, Politics, Culture, and Environment
REES 3251	Arctic Thrillers: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North
SCAN 2201	Introduction to Modern Nordic Culture and Society
SCAN 2202	The Viking Age
SCAN 3202	Old Norse Mythology
SCAN 3204	Medieval Icelandic Sagas
SCAN 3251	Arctic Thrillers: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North
SCAN 3301	Radical Nationalism in Contemporary Northern Europe
SWED 3010	Advanced Swedish 1-DILS
SWED 3020	Advanced Swedish 2 - DILS
Study Abroad - Global Seminar: Identity, Arts & Ethics in Contemporary Norway (Oslo and Bergen)	
Environment and Policy	
3-6	
<i>One course required, plus one elective in this category or in the Society and Culture category</i>	
ATOC 1060	Our Changing Environment: El Nino, Ozone, and Climate
ATOC 4500	Special Topics in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences - Upper Division (only if topic is Icesheets and Climate)
ATOC 4780	Ice Sheets and Climate
EBIO 3170	Mountain Ecology and Conservation
ENVS 1000	Introduction to Environmental Studies
ENVS 3022	Climate and Energy Justice
GEOG 3022	Climate and Energy Justice
GEOG 3682	International Development: Economics, Power, and Place
GEOG 4271	The Arctic Climate System
GEOG 4371	Forest Geography: Principles and Dynamics
GEOL 1060	Global Change: An Earth Science Perspective
IAFS 1000	Global Issues and International Affairs
PSCI 2116	Introduction to Environmental Policy and Policy Analysis
Total Credit Hours	
18	

Plan(s) of Study

To complete the interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate in Arctic studies, a student must complete 6 courses for a total of 18 credit hours.

Students must take all 3 core courses, one course from the environment and policy category, one course from the culture and society category and one additional elective course from either category.

Students may take the courses at any time during their undergraduate program, completing them by their last semester. Please contact Professor Mark Serreze prior to starting the certificate program. Students may also contact the Department with any questions.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Explain the key aspects of the Arctic's physical environment, biota and connections with global climate and of the rapid changes that are taking place.
- Demonstrate an understanding of ethnic, linguistic and sociopolitical diversity among the numerous indigenous peoples of the region.
- Explain critical issues such as nationalism, territorial rights and law, security, economic development and resource technology that place the Arctic at the center of global, regional and national interests.
- Describe ways the region's natural and social characteristics have inspired influential and enduring expressive culture—produced by locals and outsiders.