

The University of British Columbia  
Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies

## NORD 340 (3): Sámi Histories and Cultures

### Acknowledgement

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, occupied, and unceded territory of the x̣m̄əθk̄w̄əȳəm (Musqueam) people. I acknowledge the land rights of the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

### Course Information

| Course Title                | Course Code Number | Credit Value |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Sámi Histories and Cultures | NORD 340           | 3 Credits    |

| Meeting Times and Place |                   |               |               |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| NORD 340/001            | Monday, Wednesday | 15:30 – 17:00 | Buchanan D314 |

| Course Instructor | Contact Details  | Office             | Office Hours                         |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tim Frandy        | <a href="mailto:tim.frandy@ubc.ca">tim.frandy@ubc.ca</a> | Buchanan Tower 901 | Mon 13:00 – 14:00 and by appointment |

### Calendar Description

Sámi cultural history, with focus on traditional culture, colonization, and decolonization.

### Prerequisites and Co-requisites

No prerequisites or co-requisites

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**LO1:** Demonstrate a sound knowledge of Sámi history, culture, religion, colonization, and cultural resurgence.

**LO2:** Analyze Nordic and European history from a Sámi perspective, looking at structures and hierarchies of power built into settler colonial logics and practices.

**LO3:** Discuss the relationships between—and shared and different experiences of—Sámi people and other Indigenous peoples around the world, with particular emphasis on the Indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest.

**LO4:** Analyze the way colonization impacts Sámi culture, social structures, and identity formation through processes of disruption, negotiation, and resistance.

**LO5:** Craft effective and nuanced analysis and interpretation of Sámi cultural products from Sámi perspectives, using both scholarly and primary source materials.

## Course Overview

NORD 340 explores the everyday life, artistic expressions, and the political realities of Sámi people—the only recognized Indigenous people in Europe—from Sámi perspectives. In particular, this course offers a counternarrative of settler colonial history that focuses on Nordic colonialisms and Sámi resilience, resistance, and revitalization. Further, the course integrates comparative Indigenous perspectives from the Pacific Northwest, in particular from the colonial entity currently known as British Columbia, in order to highlight comparative aspects of settler colonialism and Indigeneity in the Global North today.

The course is constructed in such a way that it highlights aspects of Sámi and Indigenous folklife, the ways that colonization has worked to disrupt and dispossess Indigenous social, political, and cultural autonomy, and the ways Indigenous people have creatively rekindled traditional culture to take on new meanings in new contexts to advance a decolonial agenda. The first third of the course builds up a base knowledge of cultural literacy, surveying languages, subsistence economy, religious practices, and traditional arts. The middle part details the impacts, logics, and strategies for colonization of Sápmi. The final third looks at the innovative ways Sámi people have sustained, rekindled, and reconnected with their own cultural practices, from village to city, from Norden to North America.

## Course Format

NORD 340 is a lecture/discussion course. It is designed to be a mid-size course (capped at 50 students), with the instruction and evaluation of students supported by teaching assistants. Course materials (all in English) will be presented in class and online. In-class activities will include lectures, group work and student presentations. Guest lecturers may be invited to address special course-related topics.

## Learning Materials

No books are required for purchase. All required readings and materials (see Course Reading List below) are posted on our course Canvas site ([canvas.ubc.ca](https://canvas.ubc.ca)).

## Assessment of Learning

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Midterm exam 1      | 20% |
| Midterm exam 2      | 20% |
| Final exam          | 20% |
| Project proposal    | 5%  |
| Research project    | 25% |

|              |             |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 90-100% = A+ | 76-79% = B+ | 64-67% = C+ | 50-54% = D |
| 85-89% = A   | 72-75% = B  | 60-63% = C  | 00-49% = F |
| 80-84% = A-  | 68-71% = B- | 55-59% = C- |            |

Class Participation (10%) (LO2, LO3, LO4)

Our in-class pedagogies depend on a mixture of lectures, and in-class discussion of readings. For that reason, it's essential that all students come prepared to discuss the readings. Students will be assessed holistically on their presence, preparedness, and willingness to engage with course materials during in-class discussion and activities. In the event you cannot attend class, please send me an email *in advance of class* as a courtesy, so I can plan accordingly (some activities might not work if there are too few students attending class).

Midterm Exam 1 (20%) (LO1, LO3)

The first midterm exam is a writing-based exam, that explores topics from the first third of the course—with particular emphasis on the historical dimensions of traditional Sámi language, culture, and society. It will be taken on the Canvas site. The exam is open book, and questions will be provided at least one week in advance of the exam on a Midterm Exam Study Guide. The exam must be completed by *Friday, October 6, 2023*.

Midterm Exam 2 (20%) (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4)

The second midterm exam is a writing-based exam, that explores topics from the first half of the course—with particular emphasis on the processes, logics, and impacts of colonization on Sámi culture. It will be taken on the Canvas site. The exam is open book, and questions will be provided at least one week in advance of the exam on a Midterm Exam Study Guide. The exam must be completed by *Friday, November 10, 2023*.

Final Exam (20%) (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5)

The final exam is a writing-based exam, that explores topics from the final third of the course—with particular emphasis on cultural revitalization movements and analysis of contemporary expressive culture. It will be taken on the Canvas site. The exam is open book, and questions will be provided at least one week in advance of the exam on a Final Exam Study Guide. The exam must be completed by the time of our final exam slot (tbd).

Project Proposal (5%) (LO5)

Students will write a short, 150-200 word paper/project proposal (a summary of your general topic, the research questions you're interested in exploring, and overview of the sources you'll use in your project). A short bibliography of 5 sources should accompany your proposal. Students will briefly present their proposals in class for feedback. This assignment is due Friday, November 3, 2023.

Research Project (25%) (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5)

This project will be a researched project of your own design, on a topic of your choice, so long as it is connected to Sámi and/or Indigenous content or concepts we have critically explored in the course. This is a chance for you to dig deeper into a topic you're interested in.

This project may take multiple forms, and must be approved by the instructor prior to its submission. It may involve writing a research paper of 7-8 pages, creating a public facing media product (film, podcast, online exhibit, website, etc.), doing a graphic adaptation, working on a translation, running an experimental archeology project (or folk arts practicum), creating a curriculum, or more. The project should be approximately the same amount of work as a 7-8 page researched paper. It must both involve research (whether library, ethnographic, or experiential), and present humanistic analysis of cultural

products to appropriate academic or general audiences. This project is due Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

*All assignments are assessed on 1) command of content, theory and concepts developed in the course; 2) the quality of humanistic analysis and argument presented in the assignment; 3) the efficacy of communication in the finished product.*

## Overview of Course Schedule

| Week   | Date         | Topic   | Assignments                        |
|--------|--------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1      | 9/6          | Sámi Culture: Insiders and Outsiders          |                                    |
| 2      | 9/11, 9/13   | Languages and Cultures                        |                                    |
| 3      | 9/18 9/20    | Land and Livelihoods                          |                                    |
| 4      | 9/25, 9/27   | Sámi Mythology and Religion                   |                                    |
| 5      | 10/2, 10/4   | No class 10/2; Noaidevuolta & Legends         | <b>Midterm Exam due Oct. 6</b>     |
| 6      | 10/9, 10/11  | No class 10/9; Noaidevuolta & Legends (cont.) |                                    |
| 7      | 10/16, 10/18 | Christianization                              |                                    |
| 8      | 10/23, 10/25 | Colonization                                  |                                    |
| 9      | 10/30, 11/1  | Joik and Music                                | <b>Project Proposal due Nov. 3</b> |
| 10     | 11/6, 11/8   | Literature and Art                            | <b>Midterm Exam due Nov. 10</b>    |
| 11     | 11/13, 11/15 | Midterm Break; No Classes                     |                                    |
| 12     | 11/20, 11/22 | Health and Medicine                           |                                    |
| 13     | 11/27, 11/29 | Queering Sápmi & Indigenous Feminisms         |                                    |
| 14     | 12/4, 12/6   | Sámi in Diaspora                              | <b>Research Project due Dec. 6</b> |
| Finals | 12/10-12/21  | Final Exam (online)                           | <b>Final Exam (tbd)</b>            |

## University and Course Policies

### Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply when the matter is referred to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the [UBC Calendar: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Students might additionally consult the Purdue Writing Lab for general information on plagiarism, information on safe practices to avoid plagiarism and more:

<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/researchandcitation/usingresearch/avoidingplagiarism/index.html>

### Academic Concessions

UBC's academic concession policy (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>) states that students seeking academic concession for any of three reasons: conflicting responsibilities; medical circumstances; and compassionate grounds, would take the following steps:

If you miss marked coursework for the first time (assignment, exam, presentation, participation in class) and the course is still in-progress, please submit a Student Self-Declaration (<https://www.arts.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2019/10/Student-Self-Declaration-Form-1.6-Arts.pdf>) to the instructor as soon as possible so that your in-term concession case can be evaluated.

If this is not the first time that you have requested concession or if classes are over, you are required to fill out the Arts Academic Advising's online academic concession form, so that an advisor can evaluate your concession case. For additional information you can consult this site:

<https://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/academic-performance/help-academic-concession/>

If you are a student in a different Faculty, please consult [your Faculty's webpage on academic concession](#), and then contact me where appropriate.

### Academic Accommodation

Academic accommodations help students with a disability or ongoing medical condition overcome challenges that may affect their academic success. Students requiring academic accommodations must register with the [Centre for Accessibility](#) (previously known as Access & Diversity). The Centre will determine that student's eligibility for accommodations in accordance with [Policy LR7: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Academic accommodations are not determined by your instructors, and instructors should not ask you about the nature of your disability or ongoing medical condition, or request copies of your disability documentation. However, your instructor may consult with the Centre for Accessibility should the accommodations affect the essential learning outcomes of a course.

### **Class Preparedness**

For every class you are expected to have required reading and/or due assignments completed, and are ready to participate in discussions. If you require additional audio/visual equipment for a presentation or project in class, please notify me through email at least 3 business days before the class so that I can reserve the equipment.

### **Academic Freedom**

The classroom is a place for the open discussion of ideas and issues. The points of view expressed by the instructor represent a professional perspective of matters related to Critical European Studies, and you and your peers are expected to contribute. However, if at any time you wish to further discuss an issue taken up from class, or do not feel comfortable to engage, please feel free to contact the instructor.

### **Early Alert**

We participate in the Early Alert Program which helps me support students who are facing difficulties that are interfering with school. If you are feeling stressed, please notify the TA or the instructor and indicate that you would like assistance. While we are not trained to help with personal problems, we can get you help from people who are. Any information that they receive from you or us is strictly confidential and is in the interest of your academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit [EarlyAlert](#).