- A more sophisticated understanding of the physical, historical/cultural, and political geographies of the Polar Regions and the social and environmental challenges faced there.
- Enhanced comprehension of Canada's unique position within the myriad of issues facing the Polar Regions (rapid environmental change, critical knowledge gaps, and unresolved boundary disputes) and awareness of how high latitude issues are treated by residents residing at lower latitudes.
- Enhanced critical thinking skills, i.e. the ability to: make important linkages and connections; recognize and evaluate multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying each (including your own); define questions and problems, evaluate evidence and arguments, and arrive at defensible positions on issues.

Essential readings in the form of scientific and policy reports, journal articles, and book chapters will be posted on the course CourseSpaces site (<a href="http://courseSpaces.uvic.ca">http://courseSpaces.uvic.ca</a>) or made available through the course reserve in the main library.