

# Study the Arctic in the Arctic this summer!

A unique course for KTH and UIUC students,  
including fieldwork on Svalbard

Environment and Society in a Changing Arctic (AK1214)

June 10 – July 2, 2019



## **A canary in the coalmine of climate change, an area of global opportunity, or both?**

This summer course focuses on the increasing international interest in the Arctic in the wake of the global climate change and growing international demand for minerals and energy resources, which is having profound effects across the circumpolar North. If the Arctic Ocean becomes free of sea ice in the summer, there may be new possibilities for resource extraction, tourism and trans-Arctic shipping there. As a consequence, Arctic governance and sustainable resource use have become central items on the political agenda of states, both from inside and beyond the region. The objective of this course is to explain these developments from a long-term historical perspective. The course is a unique opportunity for program students at KTH and The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in the US to study Arctic change at KTH and in the field on Svalbard in the High Arctic.

## Objectives and learning outcomes

The aim of this course is to provide students with a thorough orientation on contemporary and long-term environmental and social changes in the Arctic. What environmental and socio-political changes has the region experienced? How have humans exploited the Arctic and why? What were the impacts, how have Arctic communities handled them and why? How can we draw upon past experiences when dealing with the present?

After the course, students will be able to: 1) Understand climatic and environmental changes in the Arctic over time, and how these are creating new risks and opportunities today, 2) describe and explain the main processes of societal and economic change in the region (science and discovery, extractive industries, geopolitics), 3) understand the impacts and legacies of such activities for Arctic communities and environments, how stakeholders have dealt with these legacies and why, 4) conduct basic field research through documentation of natural phenomena and cultural remains, and conducting interviews, 5) perform simple research tasks by using and combining different sources and methods, and 6) critically analyze current events in the Arctic, in relation to the course contents.

## Organization and general outline

The first part of the course takes place at KTH/Valhallavägen campus in Stockholm, from June 10-20, consisting of a series of lectures and museum visits on the topic Arctic environmental and societal change. The second part of the course takes place on the Arctic Archipelago of Svalbard, from June 23-July 2, and consists of different field work exercises in Longyearbyen—Svalbard's main center of activity—and the semi-abandoned Russian settlement Pyramiden, focusing on various aspects of change in the Arctic, including socio-economic-political institutions, and the natural and built environment.

## Applications

*How to apply:*

Email [changingarctic@abe.kth.se](mailto:changingarctic@abe.kth.se) to receive the link for online application. Attach a motivational letter where you write why you want to take the course and how it is relevant for your ongoing education.

If you are a doctoral student, you also need to send a certificate that your costs for the course are covered by your home division.

*Who can apply:*

The course is open to program students at KTH and for students at UIUC (course is taught by faculty members from both universities). KTH students need to have general entry requirements and 120 hp in one of the following fields: technology, natural science, architecture, history, environmental history, history of ideas, economic history, political science, anthropology, sociology, ethnology, literature, archaeology, human geography.

Doctoral students at KTH can also take the course, but need to cover the whole cost for the field work.

If you are a non EU student you need to make sure that the course is a part of your study plan or eISP, otherwise there is a risk that you need pay a course fee. Please turn to your coordinator or supervisor to clear this.

**Deadline for applications:** March 15, 2019

### **Costs**

Field based education in the high Arctic is not cheap. The course will fund most of the costs, but students need to cover an amount of 4 000 SEK each. We advise students to apply for travel stipends to cover this cost.

### **Safety issues**

Applicants to the course should be aware that the field component of the course on Svalbard involves certain risks connected to the High Arctic environment and its fauna. Students must also be ready to invest in suitable outdoors clothing and hiking boots.