

THE BERING SEA AND ITS MARGINS: HISTORY AND MODERN PROCESSES

GEOS, BIOL, ANTH, MLS, NRM 692

Credits: 1, Pass/Fail

Meets: Tuesdays 1:15-2:15; Elvey Auditorium (214 Elvey)

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor

Instructor: Nancy Bigelow; Nat. Sci 373; 474-5433; <mailto:ffnhb@uaf.edu>

Course Readings: No required readings, but each speaker will suggest 1 to 3 key papers (lodged at Rasmuson's ERes [<http://eres.uaf.edu/> password: bss]). If you are unfamiliar with the seminar topic, it is recommended that you look at those papers before the lecture.

Course Description: This course is a weekly seminar series examining the Bering Sea and its terrestrial margins. Speakers will be mainly drawn from the university and local research community. Topics will include both paleo- (tectonics, basin formation, glaciations, sea level changes, climate) and modern (ecology, circulation, fisheries, human use) subjects.

Course Goals: To expose students to a highly interdisciplinary view of the Bering Sea and its margins. Most students (and professionals) focus on their specific research areas. The aim of this course is to remind people that no research can occur in a vacuum and that a geographic region should be examined in its entirety, not in independent compartments.

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of this class, students will have a much broader view of their research area and be able to put their studies into a wider context.

Instructional Methods: Weekly hour-long seminars by visiting speakers drawn from the university, local professional community, and in rare cases, from out of town

Course Calendar: A preliminary schedule is below. The most up-to-date calendar is on the AQC web site (<http://www.uaf.edu/aqc/bss.htm>)

Lecture # and Date	Topic	Speaker
1 (Jan 16)	Course introduction, expectations, etc.	Bigelow
2 (Jan 23)	Cenozoic history of Bering Strait water flow, tectonism, and basin formation	Barron/Scholl
3 (Jan 30)	Modern overview of Bering Sea region (big picture)	McRoy
4 (Feb 6)	Early to mid Quaternary	Heiser
5 (Feb 13)	Modern circulation & climate	Carmack
6 (Feb 20)	Late Quat. sea level changes and flooding	Naidu
7 (Feb 27)	Late Quat. vegetation history of margins	Bigelow
8 (Mar 5)	Pingos and hydrates (Arctic Ocean)	Paull
SPRING BREAK Mar 12-18		
9 (Mar 20)	Coastal lake records (Topic TBA)	Finney
10 (Mar 27)	Human prehistory of margins (Topic TBA)	Mason
11 (April 3)	Ecology (Topic TBA)	Whitledge
12 (April 10)	Trophic levels (Topic TBA)	Springer
13 (April 17)	Climate effects on fishes in the Bering Sea	Norcross
14 (April 24)*	Topic TBA but perhaps will be mineral resources and economic development	TBA
15 (May 1)*	Anthropology (Topic TBA)	Schweitzer
Date not finalized		

Course Policies: This is a pass/fail class. A passing grade will be given if a student attends at least 12 lectures.

Evaluation: Course evaluation is based on attendance (see above).

Support Services: None needed for this course.

Disabilities Services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. UAF is committed to equal opportunity for all students. If you have a documented disability, please let me know within the first two weeks of class, and I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services to make the appropriate accommodation. If you have a specific undocumented physical, psychiatric or learning disability, you will benefit greatly by providing documentation of your disability to Disability Services in the Center for Health and Counseling, 474-7043, TTY 474-7045.