



A HOT TOPIC IN A COLD PLACE: THE EFFECT OF PERMAFROST THAW ON ARCTIC ECOLOGY AND SOCIETY



The Arctic is a place of rugged beauty, where life—human, flora, fauna, and microbial—is sustained at the extremes. Climate change is rapidly altering the Arctic. In the terrestrial system, it has already shrunk glaciers, endangered species, increased shrubification, and thawed permafrost.

In this seminar, we will explore the ecological and social implications of permafrost thaw. The seminar series will be fundamentally composed of readings and class discussion, with a few weeks dedicated to developing and probing a research question with archived data.

Interested students (with advisor approval) will also have the opportunity to co-author a synthesis paper about shifts in the structure and function of the permafrost microbiome.

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