Modernization and the Cultural Landscape of Kulusuk Island, East Greenland

Tony Dzik Ph.D.
Professor, Geography
11:15 – 12 pm
Clark Memorial Library Learning Lab

Professor Dzik earned his Ph.D. in geography at Northwestern University and has been teaching at SSU for 26 years. His specialties are regional geography (especially the American Great Plains, Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, and North America in general), physical geography, and medical geography. Among his publications are books on badlands landscapes, the physical geography of the Great Plains, and the historical geography of a Chicago neighborhood. His academic journal publications include articles on Greenland, disease mapping, ischemic heart disease geography, radon geology and cancer, and the economic geography of Billings County, ND.

Presentation Summary:
The cultural landscape of Kulusuk Island in East Greenland reflects the integration of the traditional and the modern on an island isolated from the rest of Greenland and the outside world until the late 19th Century. The island had never been a significant hunting area for the region’s Inuit and exhibited little trace of permanent habitation until 1909 when the Danes established a religious mission on the island and a village arose around it. Dr. Dzik explains how a number of external modernizing forces have brought new technologies and new material culture, transforming the cultural landscape on the island.