

Geography 3000y – Section 002 Ontario

Fall Term 2012

FIELD METHODS AND PRACTICES:
Ontario – Geographic Field Techniques and Research Methods

Course Outline

Mandatory Pre-Trip* Organizational Meetings:

- *Wednesday, September 12th: 5:30-7:30, SSC 2322E Pleva (or SSC 2036 if we need more space)*
**** Bring \$305 cheque, OHIP #, Emergency contact name & phone # ****
- *Wednesday, September 19th: 5:30-7:00, SSC 2322E Pleva (or UCC 53 if we need more space)*

** See page 7 for Post-Trip Meeting Dates*



Foci: (1) Geographic Techniques — Field Techniques, Research Methods; (2) Physical Geography; and (3) Rural, Urban and Wilderness Geography

Field Trip Dates: Sunday September 30th —> Friday October 5th, 2012
Departure: 8:30 AM Friday from the Social Sciences Loading Dock
Return: Friday evening/night October 5th.

INSTRUCTORS/LEADERS: Prof. Micha Pazner, Ms. Erika Hill

Office Hours: Dr. Micha Pazner - Tue 1:30-2:30, Thu 4:30-5:30
or by Appointment, Room 1416 SSC
Cell: 519 854 2433 (during trip)

SYLLABI FROM ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2012-13

Geography 3000y – Field Methods and Practices

Departmental field camps & field trips as arranged. Students should be prepared to meet the necessary travel & living expenses. Mandatory for students in any Honors Specialization module in the Department of Geography.

Prerequisite(s): 3rd year status in any Honors Specialization module in the Department of Geography; limited enrolment may be available to students in 3rd or 4th year of a major in the Department of Geography.

Corequisite(s):

Pre-or Corequisite(s):

Extra Information: Sessions and hours by arrangement, 0.5 course.

Source: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg915.html#34844>



COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

The course is rated as the equivalent of a one-term conventional course.

It consists of mandatory pre and post trip meetings, a pre-trip assignment, six (6) days in the field, and completion of a research paper within eight weeks following return. It is expected that students will:

- a. Prepare for the course by attending the pre-camp meeting(s) in September (see posted notices for times and places), and by completing the Pre-Trip Map and Write-up Assignment.
- b. Put in the equivalent of at least 24 hours of Field Work, briefing and discussion during the camp, recorded in a Field Note Book; and
- c. Complete the specified Graded Requirements (see Evaluation below), before, during and after the time in the field.

EVALUATION:

5%	Pre Trip Soft and Hardcopy Map Set
5%	Pre-Trip Topic Assignment: Write-Up
5%	Pre-Trip Topic Assignment: Presentation
10%	Cooperation, Participation and Discussion
30%	Field Note Book
10%	Field Image Mini Portfolio
35%	Research Project

As with other courses, do not commit scholastic offenses, eg. Plagiarism when you submit written assignments or papers for this course (See more on this in the last section of this document)

NB. Although 3000Y is a ‘full-year course’, it is hoped to have complete marks available by the end of the Fall Term.



ONLINE COURSE MATERIALS:

Course Hand-Out Materials are posted digitally and are available on-line. Please **print hard copies** and bring them with you in the field:

Log in to the SSC server and access the list of 'network drives'.
Select 'user lib on student server'
Select 'Course Library'
Select 'Geography'
Select 'Ontario Geog 3000y'
View Online and make **Printouts** of the files you will need for this course.

PRE-TRIP PREPARATION

- You should be aware of the course's structure, trip plan and geography of the region(s) we will be visiting. Familiarize yourself with the course hand-outs, and with maps of the areas in Ontario we will be in (using the web incl. Google Maps and Google Earth, Map Library, Chapters, etc.) Read and learn as much as you can before the trip.
- Mandatory Pre Trip Meetings will be held as listed in the "Summary Description".
- Do the mandatory Pre-Trip Assignments (See Below).
- Get all the gear you will need ready for the trip. Give this critical logistic task the ample time it will require and START ASAP.

PRE TRIP SOFT AND HARDCOPY MAP SET ASSIGNMENT

Prepare a set of at least three (3) maps (e.g. using Google Maps with Terrain ON) that shows the planned route for the trip and the two primary field work areas we'll be staying in. Do the Route Map at a small scale that portrays the entire journeyed area and the full route. All maps must have a Scale (e.g. a Scale Bar). Include an indication of Direction of Travel. Mark each Day segment with a number, and mark the Night Stop. Provide approximate distance of segments and overall distance (in Kms). *Do not submit a Satellite Image/Map.* Accompany your map with a text sheet that describes how you did it (what data, software, methods you used, etc.). Comment what you thought of this exercise and on the trip plan itself. Submit it on softcopy and, as well, submit a hardcopy version on the morning of the trip. Consider bringing an additional copy for your own reference on the trip.

PRE-TRIP TOPIC ASSIGNMENT

This assignment involves preparation of information to be delivered (by individual students or, with approval, by pairs of students) at a designated Field-Stop as a student oral presentation. The assignment will require rather urgent academic work at Western prior to departure. Each student or student pair must select a topic and be prepared to give a 15 minute presentation during the trip, and act as the trip guide on the topic. In addition, a write-up of the presentation material will be submitted.

There are six steps: (i) choose your Pre-Trip and (tentative) Research Paper general topic at the Sept. 12th meeting, (ii) advise the instructors and get our approval for your specific theme and title within 24 hours (eg. via e-mail) i.e. by Sept. 13th, (iii) prepare the material prior to departure on Sept 30th, (iv) submit a softcopy via e-mail (v) submit the hardcopy written Pre-trip assignment upon departure on Sept. 30th, and finally (vi) make a presentation during the trip at a Field-Stop and other relevant situations/times.

OPTIONAL TEXT: Margot Northey, David B. Knight and Dianne Draper, *Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences – A Student’s Guide to Research and Writing with up-to-date MLA & APA Information*, Fourth Edition (Oxford University Press, 2010) and above (5th Ed. 2012).

MORE ON TEXT AND RELEVANT MATERIALS: Contact Dr. Pazner to access his “*Field Library*” collection — and to get guidance on what’s out there and where to find the information.



DURING THE TRIP

FIELD NOTE BOOK:

During the time in the field, you are responsible for maintaining a Field Note Book. The Field Note Book is the comprehensive, personal record and reference for the course.

The importance of the Field Note Book will be discussed at the pre-camp meetings. *An optional textbook* for this section of the G3000Y (see below) includes several chapters relevant to field research.

Your Field Note Book should include five main elements;

1. The record of any Pre-Trip Preparation, e.g. including readings, but not including the actual Pre-Trip Assignment.
2. The Daily Record of events, i.e. routes and places visited, what was observed and any research questions and hypotheses that come to mind. Also, other thoughts, reflections, impressions, etc. In addition, a Trip Summary will be written on the last day of the trip.
3. Field notes of material delivered by the instructor(s).
4. Summaries of peer field-stop presentations
5. A record of work undertaken, of information gathered and any analysis done during Field Exercises and Assignments

Note: Primary contents include your text and drawings/sketches. Attachments, such as clippings, extracts from web sources are considered secondary (not your own) information.

The Field Note Book will be due on return from the field and is to be handed to your leader/van driver, on return to UWO on Friday, October 5th.

FIELD IMAGE MINI PORTFOLIO

This assignment involves preparation of a digital folder with up to Ten (10) images (pictures taken by you with a digital camera) in each of two Categories: *Nature*, and *Other* (e.g. culture, people, adventure, geography, etc.) to be delivered within three weeks after the trip. The up-to-20 pictures per person will be shown to the whole group at a post-trip gathering. * Make sure to organize your sets in two separate sub folders labeled by Category name (ie. *Nature* and *Other*). Accompany your collection with a *text file* (in softcopy PDF format) that contains a brief Title and Caption for each picture.



AFTER THE TRIP

RESEARCH PROJECT:

Research Design Proposal. Present a research proposal in paper form to conduct research on a topic which relates to questions and/or hypotheses that you have identified as suitable for this field-research course. Specify in detail how field research methods will be used in the proposed study. *Each individual must prepare and submit their research proposal paper.*

How the Research Project works:

You can choose a topic prior to departure and start to work on it, or

You can choose a topic on the trip.

You can do the research alone or in pairs, but each student must submit their own Research Proposal Paper.

The topic must relate to a place we visit and must include, or be somehow connected to, some data or field observations (e.g. digital photos).

The topic should be discussed with the instructors and meet with their approval.

You should think about, and make notes on the topic during the trip.

Post-trip work involves preparing a Research Proposal Paper.

Please note that the Optional Text (Northey et al) material offers some guidance that can be used for this project.



Mandatory Post-Trip Meetings, Activities and **DUE dates:**

- *Friday, October 26th**: Field Image Mini Portfolio (Electronic Submission)
- *Wednesday, October 17th**: 7:00-8:30, SSC 2322E Pleva (or SSC 3026 if we need more space)
- *Wednesday, October 31st**: 7:00-8:30, SSC 2322E Pleva (or SSC 3026 if we need more space)

- *Sunday, November 11th**: 6:00-10:00 PM. *Research Project paper submission AND Post-Trip Group Dinner and Social Evening. Venue: Pazner Residence. Bring along your appetite, **selected** photos, digital slideshow, trip videos. Program: Dinner, pictures.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GROUND RULES:

Do not register for this trip unless you are prepared to accept the following obligations:

- No Alcohol and No Drugs
- No Smoking in Vehicles
- No electronic gadgets (eg. Headphones) during field work, while in van reconnaissance and when walking/hiking
- All participants will share in the preparation, maintenance, and cleaning of vehicle, camp, and equipment. Follow the instructions from your Trip Staff.
- If you are on medication or special diet, or have other essential health needs, it is your responsibility to advise the instructors well in advance of departure.
- All participants must carry identification and OHIP cards. “Travel Cuts” and Banks offer Supplemental Insurance at a very reasonable daily rate.
- Prior to being allowed in the vans, all participants must sign a waiver of responsibility for accidents, as well as provide emergency contact information.

LIVING CONDITIONS:

- Travel in a 15-seater passenger vans with room for gear: individual gear incl. tenting/sleeping gear, group camp gear, professional equipment, food and camp supplies.
- Accommodations are camping, typically in campgrounds.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

An underlying objective of the field camp is to allow students to gain practical experience in carrying out fieldwork. In this respect, the camp will build upon the principles of geographic research methods and analysis introduced in Geography 2250 (formerly 237) *Research Methods* and other courses. Students will gain experience in map and image use, use of a field notebook, planning fieldwork, carrying out and assessing field observations, and using basic instrumentation. It is important that students review) Geography 2250 (formerly 237) and Geography 2210 (formerly 201) *Introduction to Spatial Analysis* notes prior to the trip. Specific Objectives are:

1. To conduct advance preparation (of text, maps, graphics, instruments, gear) for the field research trip, including: preparing Pre-Trip Assignments and the Research Project.
2. To practice geographic observation, data collection and interpretation techniques during the field trip.
3. To identify researchable hypotheses through field observation.
4. To organize and maintain a field book containing information, observations, questions, hypotheses, and findings.
5. To integrate field notes text and drawings with photography, and maps, including field maps (in your research paper).
6. To practice geographic documenting and mapping techniques after the field trip (Research Paper).
7. To practice orienteering and navigation techniques during the field trip.
8. To visualize local landscapes in a broad regional context.
9. To observe the expression of human values in landscape organization.

10. To acquire general travel and camping skills.
11. To communicate thoughts on the above through discussions.
12. To get to know one another, enjoy the trip, and have fun.



UWO POLICIES:

* For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

* Do NOT commit scholastic offenses, eg. **Plagiarism:**

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)."

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> .

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

COST \$305

The estimated cost is actually C\$ 350.-* per student. This covers group meals, accommodation (camping), travel in a van, special fees (entrance fees to sites, ferry, canoe rental, etc.) and supplies/misc (camp supplies, field materials, handouts incl. maps and images). However, thanks to the generosity of your Social Science Student Council, you each receive a 12% discount of \$45.- from the 'Student Donation Fund' and therefore you need to pay only \$ 305.-

Please bring a \$305 cheque, made out to 'The Dept. of Geography, Western', to our pre- trip meeting on the September 13th. You may also pay by credit card on-line at: <https://rabbit.vm.its.uwo.ca/GeographyStore/Default.aspx>. Fees must be paid no later than Monday, September 17th.

In addition, students will need to bring an extra amount of CAD 100.- for non-group meals and incidentals.



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