

## GEOG 3000Y – Field methods & practices

### Forests of southwestern Ontario Course Outline: Section 002 Fall 2021

This course is taught in-person

#### 1. Course Information



	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Field trip	In-person	<b>Sept 26 – Oct 1</b>	Various
Mandatory meetings – pre/post trip	In-person	Sept 20: 12:30 – 1:30 pm Oct 18: 12:30 – 2:20 pm Nov 29: 12:30 – 2:20 pm	SSC 2322E

Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	November 1-7	December 8	December 9	December 10-21

September 16, 2021: Last day to add a first-term half course

October 11, 2021: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 12, 2021: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

Please bring the following to the first meeting:

- Emergency Information form (at end of outline)
- Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form (at end of outline)
- A cheque for \$400 (if you haven't already paid online - <https://geographystore.adt.wts.uwo.ca/>) made out to "Department of Geography and Environment – UWO"



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
<b>David Goldblum</b>	<a href="mailto:david.goldblum@uwo.ca">david.goldblum@uwo.ca</a>  SCC 2403/2415 – will likely change during the term	Tu: 10:00 am – 11:30 pm, Th: 2:30 – 3:30 pm, or by appointment

Course Assistant	Contact Information	Office Hours
<b>Erika Hill</b>	<a href="mailto:ehill5@uwo.ca">ehill5@uwo.ca</a>	N/A



- Office hours will be held in-person. One-on-one Zoom meetings can be arranged – email the instructor

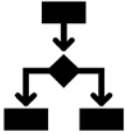
## 2. Calendar Description

Departmental field trips to develop student skills in field-based observation, data collection and recording, and analysis and interpretation of human and physical landscapes.

2 lecture hours, 1 laboratory hour, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): Geography 3001F/G

Prerequisite(s): 3rd year status in any module in the Department of Geography and Environment except the Minor; limited enrolment. Priority given to Specialization and Honours Specialization students.



Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

## 3. Textbook



**Required text:** None

Additional resources (articles) will be posted in OWL

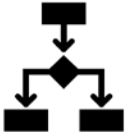
## 4. Course Objectives and Format

This course introduces and provides in depth information on the forests and ecosystems of southwestern Ontario. Course information and material will be presented in the field (Sept 26 – Oct 1), with a focus primarily on Piney Provincial Park and Point Pelee National Park. Field activities will include hands-on forest sampling, tree coring, forest surveying, measurements of understory light levels, assessments of biodiversity, and lectures by the instructor and Ontario Parks and Parks Canada ecologists. Following the field portion of the course, students will be expected to complete lab exercises, data analysis, a research (literature review) paper, and in-class presentation on their research paper topic.

Attendance in all components (pre- and post-meetings, all days in the field) of the course is required.

Late assignments will be penalized at 25%/day, unless accompanied by a valid excuse provided to the instructor.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.



Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the major vegetation communities in eastern North America
- Detail the glacial history of the region and how it has impacted forest ecosystems in eastern North America
- Summarize the role that natural disturbances play in the forests of eastern North America and southwestern Ontario
- Summarize the role that anthropogenic disturbances play in the forests of eastern North America and southwestern Ontario
- Undertake forest surveys that include measurements of tree density, tree basal area, and estimates of tree height
- Explain why tree density, basal area, and tree height might differ between forest stands and how that may relate to forest history
- Measure forest light levels and understand how light levels impact growth of tree species and forest understory communities
- Propose and research a literature review style paper on a topic related to forest management and/or forest ecology
- Explain the impacts of contemporary environmental change (climate change, deforestation, fire policy, spread of exotic species) on the forests of eastern North America and southwestern Ontario
- Undertake basic data manipulation, graphical representation, interpretation, and analysis
- Produce basic scientific reports and critically analyze scholarly literature
- Find, interpret, summarize, and apply information found in primary scientific literature to biogeographic questions.
- Improve their written scientific communication
- Develop skills in scientific oral presentations



## 6. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Times	Activity	Location
<i>Sept 20 (Monday)</i>	<i>12:30 – 1:30 pm</i>	<i>Pre-trip meeting to discuss logistics</i>	<i>SSC 2322E</i>
Sept 26 (Sunday)	12:00 – 5:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet on campus (noon)</li> <li>• Visit Big Swamp Forest</li> <li>• Drive to Grand Bend</li> </ul>	Big Swamp Forest
Sept 27 (Monday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of landscape history, human land use, and park management (Alistair MacKenzie 9:30 – 11:30 am (front gate); 4:30 – 5:00 pm)</li> <li>• Forest surveys</li> <li>• Tree coring</li> </ul>	Pinery PP
Sept 28 (Tuesday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest surveys</li> <li>• Tree coring</li> <li>• Light level measurements</li> </ul>	Pinery PP
Sept 29 (Wednesday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Travel from Grand Bend to Leamington	Stop at: Howard Watson Nature Trail (Sarnia)
Sept 30 (Thursday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of landscape history, human land use, and park management</li> <li>• Understory light environment and tree fall gap dynamics</li> <li>• Carolinian Forests</li> </ul>	Point Pelee NP
Oct 1 (Friday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet Park ecologist – management of oak savannas</li> <li>• Forest surveys</li> <li>• PCQ and Quadrat field methods</li> <li>• Return to London (4:30 – 6:30 pm)</li> </ul>	Point Pelee NP
<i>Oct 18 (Monday)</i>	<i>12:30 – 2:30 pm</i>	<i>Post-trip meeting to discuss field assignments, research paper, and presentation</i>	<i>SSC 2322E</i>
<i>Nov 29 (Monday)</i>	<i>12:30 – 2:30 pm</i>	<i>Post-trip meeting dedicated to individual research presentations</i>	<i>SSC 2322E</i>



## 7. Communication

- Check the OWL site frequently for announcements and course postings, it is your responsibility to attend meetings to receive that information.
- Students can email the instructor using OWL “messages” or directly via regular email channels.
- Emails sent to the instructor should come from your UWO official email account. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours if not sooner



## 8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Analytical assignments	Written submissions	35%	Nov 15
Field participation		15%	N/A
Research paper	Written submission	30%	Dec 3
Research presentation	In person (in class)	20%	Nov 29 (12:30 pm)

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures, information provided in tutorials, as well as the assigned chapters in the text and readings posted in OWL.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instruction.

### Assignment Summaries

Further details will be provided as each assignment is introduced during class, but below is some basic information.



- Analytical Assignments (35%) Using data collected from fieldwork conducted at Pinery PP and Point Pelee National Park there will be a several assignments requiring data manipulation, data analysis, interpretation and synthesis of results, and comparison of findings with published research.
- Field participation (15%) Fieldwork is a collaborative activity, with the group benefiting from participants actively engaged in individual and group tasks. Furthermore, in-field discussions will require engaged participation from all members. Students will be assessed on frequency of engagement in activities, participation in group activities, quality of interaction with others in the field.
- Research paper (30%) This will be a literature review paper on a topic approved by the instructor related to course material. You should use a minimum of 15 sources from scientific journals, you may also use no more than three websites (provided they are from government or NGOs sites), and you can use scholarly books as additional resources. Details of the assignment will be provided in class, and will be a frequent topic of conversation during the fieldweek. Paper will be assessed based on organization, content, clarity, sources selected, and referencing style and accuracy. A rubric will be provided.
- Research presentation (20%) Based on the final research paper, students will give a 15 minute oral presentation on their research paper content. Details of the assignment will be provided in class. Presentation will be assessed based on organization, content, clarity, use of visual aids, and delivery. A rubric will be provided.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

#### Information about late or missed evaluations:

For Western University Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) see [Policy on Accommodation for Illness](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade **must** apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. If the midterm exam is missed, and the student was granted academic accommodation by their home Faculty, a make-up test will be offered.



For non-documented medical absences or non-medical absences, late assignments will be given a penalty of 25% per day from the final grade for the assignment for a maximum of four days. After four days the assignment will result in a grade of 0. Students looking for a change in a deadline are asked to submit a request to the course instructor as soon as possible. For assignments worth less than 10%, the student must submit a request for accommodation to the instructor. Medical documentation will not be required. Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report

An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; [an alternate assessment will be assigned] OR [the weight will be transferred to the final grade]

**Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.**

## 9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

## **10. Make-up Examinations**

Not applicable

## **11. Use of Electronic Devices**

Not applicable.

## 12. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
4. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
5. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or **contact your instructor** and or teaching assistant.

## 13. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## 14. Information on COVID-19

### Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

### Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling).

## 15. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.



All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

[Include this paragraph on computer marked multiple-choice tests if relevant. If not relevant delete the paragraph below]

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## **16. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website. More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

## **17. Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

## **18. Support Services**

Western's Support Services  
Student Development Centre

## **19. Important Dates**

September 8: Classes resume

September 16: Last day to add a first term half course

October 11: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 1 to November 7: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without penalty

December 8: Classes end

December 9: Study day

December 10-21: Examination Period

# Western Social Science

## The Department of Geography and Environment

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student # \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Location Field Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware that during field trips, exchanges or other excursions in which I am participating under the arrangements of the Western University, certain risks and dangers may occur, including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling, accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature and travel by air, train, automobile or other means, as well as exposure to customs and practices of societies different from our own. Accordingly, I understand that despite its efforts, the University may not be able to ensure my complete safety at all times from such risks and dangers. More particularly, I appreciate that the Western University does not carry medical, accident or injury insurance for my benefit. Further, there may be certain matters for which I could be at fault personally if the accompanying circumstances do not relate to or arise from my education, or if my activities or conduct fall short of what would be considered a reasonable standard for an individual in my position. In these cases I agree to be accountable in all respects for my own actions and not to ask the University or its employees to accept the consequences thereof; further, I agree to be responsible for any claims made against the University in relation to such actions.

Date(s) of trip: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I have been advised by Western University of such risks and dangers as well as the need to act in a responsible manner at all times. My signature below is given freely in order to indicate my participation in the above mentioned Program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Your OHIP number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Health Insurance Plan, type, & number: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Contact in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**The information on this form is collected under the authority of *The University of Western Ontario Act, 1982*, as amended, and is needed for use in the event of a medical or other emergency. If you have any questions about the University's collection, use, or disclosure of this information, please contact the Coordinator, Freedom of Information and Privacy Office, Stevenson Hall, Room 4101, 519-661-2111 ext 84543**

# Western Social Science

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION – CONFIDENTIAL

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student # \_\_\_\_\_

Home University: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Course/Location \_\_\_\_\_

### MEDICAL INSURANCE

OHIP # (or equivalent): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of other insurer(s) and policy numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Policy Holder (if not student): \_\_\_\_\_

Policy holder guarantees that additional insurance is in force for the duration of the field course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Policy Holder

### HEALTH INFORMATION

Please list any allergies, drug sensitivities, regular medications and other information that might be of significance to a physician or hospital treating you in an emergency situation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT

Please give the following information for a person who can be reached in an emergency, during the course.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_

(W): \_\_\_\_\_

(C): \_\_\_\_\_