

## GEOG 3000Y – Field methods & practices

### Forests of southwestern Ontario Course Outline: Section 002 Fall 2022

This course is taught in-person

#### 1. Course Information



	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Field trip	In-person	<b>Sept 25 – Sept 30</b>	Various
Mandatory meetings – pre/post trip	In-person	Sept 19: 3:30 – 4:30 pm Oct 4: 8:30 – 10:20 am Oct 18: 8:30 – 10:20 am Nov 29: 8:30 – 10:20 am	SSC 2322E

Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	October 31-November 6	December 8	December 9	December 10-22

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a first-term half course

October 10, 2022: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
<b>David Goldblum</b>	<a href="mailto:david.goldblum@uwo.ca">david.goldblum@uwo.ca</a> SCC 2403	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



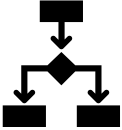
- Office hours will be held in-person. One-on-one Zoom meetings can be arranged – email the instructor

## 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.

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

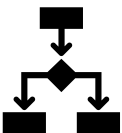


Required text: none

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 25 Sept 30), 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.

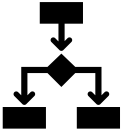


Attendance in all components (pre- and post-meetings, all days in the field) of the course is required.

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. 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

## 7. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Times	Activity	Location
<i>Sept 19 (Monday)</i>	<i>3:30 – 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Pre-trip meeting to discuss logistics</i>	<i>SSC 2322E</i>
Sept 25 (Sunday)	12:00 – 5:30 pm	Meet on campus (noon) Visit Big Swamp Forest Drive to Grand Bend	Big Swamp Forest
Sept 26 (Monday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Forest surveys Tree coring	Pinery PP
Sept 27 (Tuesday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Discussion of landscape history, human land use, and park management (Alistair MacKenzie 9:30 – 11:30 am  Forest surveys Tree coring Light level measurements	Pinery PP
Sept 28 (Wednesday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Travel from Grand Bend to Leamington	Stop at: Howard Watson Nature Trail (Sarnia)
Sept 29 (Thursday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Discussion of landscape history, human land use, and park management Understory light environment and tree fall gap dynamics Carolinian Forests	Point Pelee NP
Sept 30 (Friday)	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Meet Park ecologist – management of oak savannas Forest surveys PCQ and Quadrat field methods Return to London (4:30 – 6:30 pm)	Point Pelee NP
Oct 4 (Tuesday)	8:30 – 10:30 am	<i>Post-trip meeting to discuss field assignments, research paper, and presentation</i>	
Oct 18 (Tuesday)	8:30 – 10:30 am	<i>Post-trip meeting to discuss field assignments, research paper, and presentation</i>	<i>SSC 2322E</i>
Nov 29 (Tuesday)	8:30 – 10:30 am	<i>Post-trip meeting dedicated to individual research presentations</i>	<i>SSC 2322E</i>
Dec 2 (Friday)	11:55 pm	<i>Term paper due</i>	



## 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 14
Field participation		15%	N/A
Research paper	Written submission	30%	Dec 2
Research presentation	In person (in class)	20%	Nov 29 (8:30 am)

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures, information provided in tutorials, as well as the assigned 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.

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. Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 48 hours of the end of the Accommodation period.

**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**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student

was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

#### Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students

#### Student Medical Certificate (SMC)

#### **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 academic counselling).

Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

## **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> ).

## **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 10: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 31 to November 6: 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 10-22: Examination Period