

GEOG 3000/ENST 2900
Field Camp: Oxbow Park, Carleton University
May 10 – June 14, 2022

Instructor: John Milton

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Course Times: Tuesdays, 0905 – 1555 (9:05 am – 3:55 pm)

Course Location: Loeb A-120 (Physical Geography Laboratory)

Welcome back!

We're back! Two years-plus and we can once again gather on campus for our spring field camp. So, welcome back. This is a non-residential field camp course. It is scheduled to run from May 10 to June 14. *Please note that the field camp takes place Tuesday and is a full-day class, running from 9:05 to 3:55 with a lunch break from 11:45 to 12:30. Because of both the time limitations that a summer semester presents and the nature of a field camp, it is mandatory that all students attend all classes. Absence can result in an "F" in the course. Furthermore, all students are required to contribute to all components of the field work or else risk not passing the course.*

What makes geography/environmental studies unique both as a discipline and professional field of work is its integrated nature. We combine natural and social sciences. That is what we will be doing in this field camp. You will be completing weekly assignments which will include in-field sample collection/field assessment with laboratory testing and evaluation. For those of you who might be afraid of working in a laboratory, don't be. It will be a lot of fun. Furthermore, it may well be the only time that those of you who are human/social geographers will actually experience the natural science side of our discipline and those of you who are physical geographers this may be the only time you conduct human-based or social research.

You will be working in teams of three or four (depending upon the number of students enrolled in the course) for the field work and laboratory assessment. However, you will be required to submit laboratory reports individually. Do not be intimidated by this. You will be working through a course laboratory manual, and I will be working alongside you, so the tasks will be easy to follow and results easy to interpret. But by taking this course, you will gain important experience in the diverse activities in the environmental work.

These tasks are organised into three field laboratory assignments, that combine both in-field work and laboratory work. Then, as a final exam, you are required to use what you have learned to produce a blueprint for re-vitalising Oxbow Park, a tiny under-used greenspace on the campus.

Course Plan

May 10

Unit 1. Introduction/Reconnaissance

Introduction to the course and to fieldwork. Introduction to Oxbow Park. In this opening unit, you will conduct a reconnaissance of Oxbow Park. This will involve two exercises. The first consists of an actual visit to the Park. You will then support your in-field analysis with secondary research regarding its history and place on Carleton's campus.

May 17/24

Unit 2. Biophysical Fieldwork: The Natural Environment

As geographers, we are a unique group in that we straddle both the social and natural worlds. However, we often remain focused on our own field of study or specialisation. Not in this field camp. In this unit you will be introduced to biophysical fieldwork by conducting a landscape/biophilic analysis of Oxbow Park. This will include soil analysis, hydrological assessment, and an ecological analysis that focuses on a vegetative inventory. This is fun stuff for you environmental studies and human geography students.

May 31/June 7

Unit 3. Social Fieldwork: Dealing with People

How do students feel about Oxbow Park? Do they even know that it exists? The purpose of this fieldwork is for you to produce a plan for transforming the Park for students, by students. Therefore, the opinion of students is of paramount importance. In this unit, you will be focusing on the nature, methods, and techniques of social research. As part of this unit, you will be designing a questionnaire to be used for surveying students. You will then be taking the compiled dataset of responses to this questionnaire to identify what the student population would like to see incorporated into a new Oxbow Park. This is fun stuff for you physical geography and geomatics students.

June 14

Final Exam. Vision Design

As your final exam you will produce a plan for transforming Oxbow Park into a unique place for the university community, for students, by student. This is to draw upon the insights and information you have gathered in your three laboratory assignments. It is to be a formal document structured using the attached template. The vision will be graded for its comprehensiveness and imagination. Have some fun here, but keep in mind both the purpose and the foundation of the vision – the opinions of students.

Due: June 21

Expectations

The objective of the Honours Field Camp is to introduce students to the range of biophysical and human field research methodologies and sampling approaches coupled with actual in-field experience. This includes:

1. An understanding of the diversity of qualitative and quantitative methodologies available for the researcher when conducting field research,
2. An understanding of the challenges facing the researcher in the field when attempting to secure specific data of relevance for a defined research question or issue,

3. The importance of proper preparation in preparing for field work, including both theoretical and practical issues the researcher might face in the field, and
4. An understanding of the challenges of teamwork in the field.

Course Textbooks

There is no single text identified for this course. However, you are encouraged to consider two texts if you plan to undertake fieldwork in the future, either academically or professionally. These are:

- Northey, M. and D.B. Knight. 2010. *Making Sense. A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. In addition to providing you with some insight into research activities, this book introduces you to a wider set of skills you will need both academically and professionally.
- Sproull, N.L. 2002. *Handbook of Research Methods*. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press Inc. I personally like this book a lot. It is very comprehensive and well laid out, providing you with a comprehensive overview of field research.

See also:

- Robinson, G.M. 1998. *Methods and Techniques in Human Geography*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. This is another great reference book on methodologies even though it might seem a little dated. Fieldwork methods, however, do not really become dated or irrelevant.
- Simonds, J.O. 2006. *Landscape Architecture: A Manual of Environmental Planning and Design*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill. 4th edition. I also like this book a lot and would recommend it to anyone who is planning on pursuing a career in planning. A word of warning, however: it is a hard cover book. For some reason, the publishers have not opted to print a soft cover version.

Deliverables and Grading

As a field course, an emphasis will be placed upon the active participation of each student in the field.

The grading is broken down as follows:

- *Laboratory Assignments*: Each student must complete all three laboratory assignments. While the in-field collection of materials and laboratory work will be done in small teams, every student must complete and submit his/her own laboratory report.
- *In-field/Laboratory Contribution*: Students will be evaluated on an ongoing basis for their contribution in both the field work and laboratory work.
- *Final Vision*: You, as individuals, will develop and present a vision for Oxbow Park based upon the findings of the biophysical and human field assignments as your final exam. This vision will be evaluated both for its creativity and for its use of the findings from the fieldwork.

Grading

The grading is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| • Laboratory Assignments | 75% |
| ○ Unit 1 Laboratory | 15% |
| ○ Unit 2 Laboratory | 30% |
| ○ Unit 3 Laboratory | 30% |
| • Final Proposal Vision | 25% |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100%</i> |

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100

B+ = 77-79

C+ = 67-69

D+ = 57-59

A = 85-89

B = 73-76

C = 63-66

D = 53-56

A - = 80-84

B - = 70-72

C - = 60-62

D - = 50-52

F = Below 50

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred

FND (Failed, no Deferral) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam.
Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.

Deferred Assignments/Grades

Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honoured. Students who are unable to complete a final paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five working days to the Registrarial Services Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. Permission can be granted only if the request is fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documents.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the mid-term exam. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

For Religious Observance

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Other Notes

Written Assignments

If you feel you need assistance in improving your writing skills, you are encouraged to get in touch early in the term with the Writing Tutorial Service (Room 229, Patterson Hall, <http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>).

Academic Standing and Conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the 2021-2022 Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar.

Drop/Withdrawal Date

Please refer to the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Calendar for the final day that one is permitted to withdraw from a fall term course.

Retain Copies of Work Submitted

Students are strongly advised to retain a hard copy (and electronic backup) of all assignments and term papers in the event of loss for whatever reason.

Student Life Services

Student Life Services, located in Room 501 of the Unicentre, offers a wide range of programs and services to assist students in adjusting to academic life, in improving their learning skills, and in making academic and career decisions.

University Regulations Regarding Cheating and Plagiarism

University regulations stipulate that any allegation of plagiarism, cheating or violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. Each case must be reported to the Dean, who investigates each allegation. If there is no resolution following this investigation at the Dean's level, a tribunal will be appointed by the Senate to review the case and make a final decision.

A Note on Plagiarism: Webster's Dictionary defines plagiarism as stealing. Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others' as one's own without adequately acknowledging the original source. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying from a book, article, or another student, downloading material or ideas from the Internet, or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.