



Course Details

Honours Field Course, Fall 2022

This year's theme: **Socioenvironmental Change in the Madawaska Valley**

(Draft Syllabus, June 2021)

Instructors: Derek Smith, dereka.smith@carleton.ca
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Teaching assistant: To be determined.

Program support: Nika Linseman, nika.linseman@carleton.ca

Class meetings:

- Zoom: Mondays, 9:35–11:25 (online)
- Mandatory field camp: October 23–27 (all day, in person)

Prerequisites: (1) GEOG 2005/ ENST 2005, (2) GEOG 2006/ ENST 2006 and (3) third-year Honours standing in Environmental Studies, Geomatics, or Geography (or permission of the Department).

Class format and delivery

This course combines an **online blended learning** (synchronous meetings via Zoom and asynchronous learning materials such as videos and reading) with a **mandatory field camp at the Madawaska Kanu Centre**.

To participate in our Zoom online classes, you need a working microphone and speakers (headphones work best), a camera is strongly recommended but not required.

The course will use the **Brightspace Learning Management System**. It can be accessed from a web browser on most internet-enabled devices, including laptops, Chromebooks, tablets, and smartphones, by going to: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca>. The [Brightspace Pulse App](#) is also available for iPhone and Android devices. To explore course content, please use a web browser instead.

Brightspace Support is available via phone/email/chat 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and a student support website will be available at <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/students/>. Information about Brightspace Support is available in the FAQ and in the Brightspace course in the D2L support widget. For general technical problems, visit **Information Technology Services** (<https://carleton.ca/its/contact/>).

Pandemic: Public health advisory and your safety always take precedence over course instructions. For updates specific to Carleton University, see <https://newsroom.carleton.ca/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Required readings and other materials

It is important that students do the asynchronous course work so that they are prepared for the class meetings and ready to participate in group discussions and other activities. Being prepared means reading and/or watching all of the required materials in advance. These materials will be provided on Brightspace, either on the platform itself or through hyperlinks. In addition to reading and watching required material, students are expected to respond to questions and other tasks related to the required material.

It is expected that all students will have the prerequisites for this course, which will have provided you with an introduction to the foundations of research and quantitative methods. The reference materials below have been made available so that you may review these topics and to further your understanding of the research process, including how to write an effective research report. These books are available through the library's main search page (<https://library.carleton.ca/>) or via ARES, which is accessed through our Brightspace page.

Flowerdew, Robin and David Martin, editors. 2013. *Methods in Human Geography: A Guide for Students Doing a Research Project*. Second edition. Essex: Addison Wesley Longman.

Hay, Iain and Philip Giles. 2012. *Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences*. Canadian Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, Ontario.

Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada. 2014. *The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing*. Toronto, Ontario: Dundurn Press in co-operation with Public Works and Government Services Canada Translation Bureau.

Additional online resources

- Writing Services: To learn about assistance that is available to help you with your written work, go to the university's writing services page: <https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>.
- Carleton Library geogenvirospecialist's Blog
Available at: <https://geogenvirospecialist.wordpress.com/>.

Software

For word processing and spreadsheet operations we recommend using Microsoft Office products. These are available to all Carleton Students and support is available from **Information Technology Services** (<https://carleton.ca/its/contact/>).

Course calendar and list of topics

This course is organized into three stages, as follows:

Stage 1 – Talking about fieldwork. During this first stage we will examine the role of fieldwork in geography, environmental studies, and geomatics. Topics include different approaches to doing fieldwork, methodological design (e.g., selecting your study area, sampling techniques), practical considerations, and how to address ethical issues. We will also be sharing stories from people who do fieldwork, to explore the rewards and challenges of being in the field. Each week will consist of both asynchronous course work and class meetings that will include a mix of lectures, class discussions, and group activities. Groups will be organized by the instructors during the first week of class. Each group will include students from different programs, in order to broaden the skills you have collectively. An exam will come at the end of Stage 1.

Stage 2 – Doing fieldwork. This stage of the course will provide you with opportunities to get hands-on experience doing independent fieldwork as part of a group, under the guidance of the teaching team. Broader concepts and issues will be discussed, but the emphasis will be on collecting your own data. This work will include observations of the physical environment and conducting a small number of interviews (the latter is subject to change, depending on the recruitment of participants). **Please note that this stage consists of a required, 5 day stay at our base camp in the Madawaska Valley. This time in the field is crucial in providing you with real in-the-field experience. If necessary, please ensure that you inform your employer that you cannot work on these days.** Stage 2 finishes with the submission of your field data.

Stage 3 – Analyzing and presenting field research results. During this final phase we will review issues relating to compiling data, presenting summaries of the data collected, and how to analyze different types of field data. Following this, we will shift our focus to writing a research report that presents the field research findings and

their significance. Stage 3 finishes with the submission of your research report.

Schedule (subject to change)

Time shown refers to synchronous meetings via Zoom.

DOW	Date	Time	Stage	Topic	Deadlines
Monday	12-Sep	9:35–11:25	1	Introduction	
Monday	19-Sep	9:35–11:25	1	What is field research?	
Monday	26-Sep	9:35–11:25	1	Fieldwork methodologies	
Monday	03-Oct	9:35–11:25	1	Preparing for fieldwork, safety, ethical issues	
Monday	10-Oct			No class meeting (Thanksgiving)	
Monday	17-Oct	9:35–11:25	1	Online quiz during scheduled time, no class meeting	Stage 1 summary quiz
Sunday October 23 to Thursday October 27			2		
Monday	31-Oct	9:35–11:25	3	Compiling, organizing, and analyzing field data	
Monday	07-Nov	9:35–11:25	3	Group work -- <u>no class meeting</u>	
Monday	14-Nov	9:35–11:25	3	Reviewing and interpreting interview data	First field dataset and summary
Monday	21-Nov	9:35–11:25	3	Group work -- <u>no class meeting</u>	
Monday	28-Nov	9:35–11:25	3	Analyzing your findings, writing the research reports	Second field dataset and summary
Monday	05-Dec	9:35–11:25	3	Writing workshop	
Friday	09-Dec		3	<u>No class meeting</u>	Final research reports

Evaluation (dates subject to change)

Item	Weight
Participation	15
Stage 1 – Summary quiz	10
Stage 2 – Field data sets and summaries	
Physical observations	20
Survey and interviews	20
Stage 3 – Research report	35

Academic regulations

The following section reviews the most important academic regulations at Carleton University. Please refer to the official version of the Academic Regulations of the University at <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/> if you require further information. The official document takes precedence over this syllabus.

Copyright

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed (hardcopy or electronically/online) without prior written consent of the author(s).

Instructional Offences

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else (this includes data and computer code);

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University. For more information, see the web page on Academic Integrity at <http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/pregnancy-accommodation-form/>.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/religious-observances/>.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>