

**GEOG 2020A ECOSYSTEMS OF CANADA**  
**Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University [0.5 credit]**

**Course Outline: Winter 2023**

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew Davidson, 613-793-2950, [andrew.davidson@carleton.ca](mailto:andrew.davidson@carleton.ca)

**Schedule:** Mondays 18:05 – 20:55, SA 520. The lecture component of classes will run for 2 – 2.5 hours, which will then be followed by an open office hour.

**Prerequisite(s):** GEOG 1010 or EARTH 1006 or EARTH 1010 or ISCI 1001. Prerequisites additional credit for GEOG 2102.

**Course description:** Canadians have a strong sense of pride in the physical environment; it is a big part of the Canadian psyche, and we would all like to understand it better. The land base is vast, the physical landscapes are wonderfully varied, the processes in action interestingly diverse. This course will apply the principles that you have already learnt in GEOG 1010 to Canada. The aim is (1) to provide a general survey of Canada's physical environments, a broad examination of the different processes that shape Canada as we know it; and (2) to highlight individual features of the Canadian physical environment that are particularly special. I hope to focus on the positive aspects of Canada's physical heritage. We hear plenty about problems but not enough about wonderful things. By the end of the course you should have a basic understanding of the physical features of Canada.

Topics will include:

- Rocks, Surface deposits, Soils
- Climate, Vegetation, Ecological regions
- Water, Weather, Climate
- Glaciers, Landslides, Rivers
- Dunes, Coasts, Permafrost

**Recommended readings:**

There is no one textbook that covers the breadth of material in this course, so **there is no required text**. However, there are readings, and it is important that you do them (see list on *BrightSpace*). It will be most helpful if you review what you learned in GEOG 1010 by reading the relevant parts of a physical geography textbook before you come to class. Any Canadian edition of a Physical Geography textbook will be fine.

Examples include:

- Christopherson and Byrne: Canadian Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Environments, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Canadian, Pearson, [GB54.5 .C48 2009](#) ). You probably already have this from GEOG 1010. It is very good for revising the basic material.
- Strahler and Strahler: Physical Geography: Science and Systems of the Human Environment, Canadian, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wiley – the library has only the 2005 edition [GB54.5 .S784 2005](#))
- Trenhaile, A. Geomorphology: A Canadian Perspective. 4th edition. [GB428.5.C2 T74 2010](#)
- Bird, B. 1980. The Natural Landscapes of Canada. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. [GB428.5.C2 B57 1980](#)
- Eyles and Miall: Canada Rocks: The Geologic Journey, Fitzhenry & Whiteside [QE185 .E98 2007](#)
- Bailey, Oke, and Rouse 1998. The Surface Climates of Canada. McGill-Queen's University Press. [GB447.S87](#) or B447.S87 1997eb (electronic resource)

- Scott, G. A. J. 1995. Canada's vegetation: A world perspective. McGill-Queen's University Press. [QK201.S37](#) or QK201 .S33 1995eb (electronic resource)
- Benke and Cushing 2005. Rivers of North America. Elsevier. ISBN 0120882531 [QH102 .R58 2005](#)

\*These eight books are available on reserve at the MacOdrum Library

**Format:** Most of the topics will have two parts: a general lecture to provide an overview of how that topic relates to Canada; and a couple of focus topics that highlight particular features or places. There is a final scheduled exam.

**Evaluation:** The format of the final exam will include some diagram questions (such as filling in labels, interpreting graphs or maps) and some short answer questions (such as fill-in-the-blanks, or definitions). Criteria for grading include spelling, grammar, format as well as academic content, especially for assignments. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Assignments: 70%

Final Exam: 30%

**Assignments:** There will be four assignments throughout the term, in total worth 70%. For all the exercises you may collaborate with others in working through the assignments, but you must prepare and submit your own separate report or poster, written in your own words. Please take note of Carleton's policy on plagiarism (below). All illustrative material must be carefully acknowledged (including material produced by fellow students). Late assignments will be deducted marks at 5% a day. After 2 days, a 0 grade will be given (unless accompanied by relevant documentation, to be discussed with the instructor).

**Examinations:** There will be a final exam held during the scheduled exam period at the end of term. This will be an online exam and be in the form of short answers, diagrams, etc. The content of the tests will be discussed in class prior to their respective dates.

**Notes:** Make sure you are properly registered. You should ensure that you have the skills required to take the course. **It is important that you have done a first-year prerequisite.**

#### **Academic conduct:**

**Instructional & Conduct Offences:** Instructional offences include among other activities cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in 2 or more courses without prior permission, and disrupting classes. Conduct offences apply in areas of discrimination and sexual harassment. Further information about University regulations which define and regulate these offences is presented in the UG Calendar:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Some of the section on plagiarism is reproduced below, because it is the most common academic offence, and one that can sometimes be committed inadvertently. (Please note that plagiarism also applies to images that you present without acknowledgement).

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students should consult the [Academic Integrity Policy](#). The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally 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;
- 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;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

**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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form (click [here](#)).

**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 click [here](#).

**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](mailto: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 will 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>