

DRAFT: Northern Studies Program / Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University

**NRTH 5009A
Field Course in Canada's North
Summer Term 2024**

Instructor: Timothy Di Leo Browne, email Timothy.Browne@carleton.ca

This course is compulsory for all students completing Northern Studies degree programs. It is graded with a letter grade, awarded for assignments submitted during the course.

Calendar description: Field observation and methods in a selected region of northern Canada on a group basis. Two or three weeks in summer term. A supplementary fee will apply.

Prerequisites: NRTH 5000; NRTH 5001; NRTH 5905 or concurrent registration in NRTH 5905; Permission of the Northern Studies Supervisor.

Fee: There is no supplementary course fee for full-time students in a Northern Studies degree program. Students must ensure the full fees due to Carleton University for the summer term 2022 have been paid before leaving from Ottawa. Students will be responsible for their breakfast and some lunches while on the course.

Evaluation in brief: Evaluation will be based on two components:

(1) Daily reflections: 60% – 10 at 6% each. Some of these may take the form of audio and video journals.

(2) The final question: 40% -- An essay on a question given at the end of the field course, to be completed as a take-home assignment.

Activities: The course involves field activities, meetings, presentations, discussions, and demonstrations in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, James Bay, Eeyou Istchee, and Kativik/Nunavik regions of Québec. The program includes interaction with several agencies in the region.

Purpose: The purpose of the course is to examine in the field issues and topics that have been encountered during the coursework elements of the degree programs. Students' reflection on their field experience taking into consideration the program's course work will be a key component of the assignments.

Themes: The primary themes of the course concern: the role of research and experiential learning in management and development in Canada's North; the effects of mining, government policy, and climate on northern life.

Academic program: The primary academic assignment during the course is to complete a daily academic reflection of 400-500 words, 5 July 2024 – 19 July 2024 inclusive. You must complete 10 of these. There will be options for audio or video journals for a portion of these. The reflections should be a response to the activities, discussions, and observations you have made during the day, in the context of NRTH 5000 and NRTH 5001 and other courses that you have taken. These short pieces should contain references to 2 sources you have encountered during the year and also material presented for reading on the course. These materials will be sent to you as pdfs in advance, and posted in Brightspace.

On 20 July 2024 you will be given a summary question for the course, to be completed as a take-home assignment.

Assignments: The daily reflections should be written each evening and submitted to the instructor every other day if possible, accumulating the reflections as a cumulative document (pdf). You need to submit 10 in all. The first reflections are due on 6 July, the last on 20 July. The text should be single spaced and in 12 pt Ariel or Times New Roman font. Each day's reflection should be on a separate page; a word count must be printed at the bottom of the page. The date for the day must be included at the top of the page. The cumulative compilation should be submitted in Brightspace (or emailed to Timothy.Browne@carleton.ca if Brightspace is unavailable) before 11:59 pm on the dates specified. References listed at the bottom of the reflection do not form part of the word limit. The reflections should demonstrate that you have integrated the academic materials you have encountered in the program into your thinking and into the approach you adopt to analysis of issues. **I will also consider audio and video journal alternatives for a portion of the reflections, which we can discuss during the field course.**

Requirements: You must bring a laptop computer and insect repellent. You will need field clothing, including boots and hiking footwear. You may need waterproof rain gear. The weather may be as warm as the Ontario summer, or as cold as the Ontario fall. It may rain hard, and it may be sunny all day. It may be muddy or dusty. It may be still, with many mosquitoes, or it may be windy. You will stay in motel style accommodation. Bring your notebooks, pencils, and pens. You should bring a camera. There may not be a place to do laundry. Meals are not provided, but we can shop for groceries in addition to eating out. Some hotels may have breakfast.

Dates: Departure from Ottawa in van, 5 July 2024; return to Ottawa, 19 July 2024.

Travel: Travel will be in a rented vehicle. Please try to bring only one piece of luggage and a day pack. It will be much easier if this is a bag, not a suitcase. With four, there may be room for three tents and sleeping bags, for emergency situations.

Planned itinerary, with overnight locations in italics:

Friday July 5: **Ottawa to *Timiskaming***

Visit Timiskaming First Nation, meet with Shane Poulson, tour

Saturday July 6: **Timiskaming to *Amos***

Timiskaming First Nation, and Virginiatown mine site, Collines d'Alembert if there's time

Sunday July 7: **Amos to *Radisson***

All day driving, stop at Matagami to see vanadium site

Monday July 8: ***Radisson***

Parks, environmental discussions, touring area taiga

Tuesday July 9: ***Radisson***

Radisson dam tour (this takes much of the day), tour of some Chisasibi sites if there's time

Wednesday July 10: **Radisson to *Kuujuarapik***

Flight to K-W. Meeting with people at Kuujuarapik Research Centre (hopefully we can have discussion of massive quick clay slide on Big Whale in 2021 – connection with climate change), tour of Kuujuarapik and Whapmagoostui, Anglican church, etc.

Thursday July 11: ***Kuujuarapik-Whapmagoostui***

Meetings with Inuit and Cree cultural leaders in K-W, trek to site above bay (if it isn't raining), Minnie's Hope childcare centre, examine beaches growing through isostatic rebound (rise is among fastest in the world), "famous" inuksuk on Hudson Bay, etc.

Friday July 12: **Kuujuarapik to *Chisasibi***

Chisasibi Cree language discussion, meeting with cultural leaders at Chisasibi (through H. Petawabano)

Saturday July 13: ***Chisasibi***

Mamoweedow Festival, George Island (this will take much of the day), etc.

Sunday July 14: **Chisasibi to *Radisson***

Further dam tours, area geology and ecology

Monday July 15: **Radisson to *Waswanipi***

Sites along the Route du Moulin, mines, Rupert River, all day driving

Tuesday July 16: **Waswanipi to Val d'Or**

Lithium mine, prison where convicted Inuit from Nunavik are sent (see from outside, discussion of displacement and over representation), visit Pikogan FN if possible, farms in Abitibi (discussion of clay belt and its formation)

Wednesday July 17: **Val d'Or to Rouyn-Noranda**

Noranda Horne smelter, UQAT (programs for students from Nunavik and Eeyou Istchee), Aiguebelle National Park (discussions on park management, compare this with newer parks)

Thursday July 18: **Rouyn-Noranda back to Val d'Or**

Val d'Or Gold Mine, concluding discussions

Friday July 19: **Val D'Or to Ottawa**

La Verendrye Reserve Faunique

Readings: These will be posted closer to the date of departure. They'll be accessible through Brightspace, but since we may not always have access to Brightspace, we'll find alternative means of distributing them. There will be opportunities to get groceries.

Meals: Some of the hotels we will be staying at provide free breakfast. But most other meals will need to be covered by the student.

Instructor's role: The instructor is responsible for all logistical arrangements, and for coordinating activities. The instructor will lead directly many of the elements of the course.

Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on two components: (1) Daily reflections (60%) and (2) the final question (40%), both as described above.

Academic Accommodation: You may need special arrangements to participate in this field course because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review this course outline promptly and forward any requests for academic accommodation to the instructor. Due to the nature of the course, the terrain to be encountered, and the logistical arrangements for bush travel, we are unable to provide accommodation for certain physical disabilities in NRTH 5009. This is for safety reasons. Students will be walking over rough terrain and using boats for some portions of the course.

Waiver: All participants are required to fill out and sign a waiver and emergency contact form before departure. The form will be emailed to you by the Program Administrator. You will grant Carleton staff and other students the right to take photographs of you that may be published for the professional purposes of the program.

Cell phones: There is some cell phone service in northern Québec communities. But cell phone coverage does not extend to many parts of the highway network, especially along James Bay Road and the Route du Nord.

Internet: There is wifi internet at most of the places where we will be staying. You will be responsible for any supplementary fees required to access the wifi service.

Uploading of course materials: Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only.

Visitor presentations: The course includes presentations and other activities guided by guests to the course.