

GEOG 391 – FIELD RESEARCH – WINTER 2023 WINTER 2023

GEOG 391

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CLASS SCHEDULE

Section	Location	Time	Instructor(s)
GEOG 391 001 [TUT]	EV1 350	Mondays 8:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.	John Beebe jbeebe@uwaterloo.ca
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INSTRUCTOR / TA INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. John Beebe

Office: to be determined

Office Hours: M, 1030-1130 AM, in-person, or by appointment (online via Teams/Learn or in-person)

Email: jbeebe@uwaterloo.ca (mailto:jbeebe@uwaterloo.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Calendar Description for GEOG 391

Field research course in which a specific area will be analyzed from a geographic point of view. Individual or group analysis of specific field problems.

Prereq: GEOG 293 or GEOG 294; ENVS 278. Antireq: GEOG 392

This course provides students with a detailed field experience – in Geography and allied disciplines, “fieldwork” is considered research at a specific location to answer specific questions. This is opposed to work such as literature reviews, remote sensing from satellites, or computational analysis. A key component of field work is the *collection and production of new information*. Fieldwork can take the form of collecting data with a probe in a river, logging locations of features of interest with a GPS unit and further analyzing their occurrence or going door-to-door surveying people about a newly planned development. Fieldwork is thus a critical component to many subfields within Geography and represents important skills that Geographers need to learn.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. design and complete a successful field research project
2. develop field research skills and to work cooperatively and equitably as a team in problem solving in realistic pre-field, field, and post-field components
3. present a verbal and written report based on field observations, measurements, and conclusions, and to develop a successful plan for communicating their research to relevant stakeholders.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week (dates)	Topic	Reading Material	Assignments
1 (Jan 9)	Introduction to field research, course basics	Introductory lecture posted online – goals, expectations, project information	
2 (Jan 16)	Field planning basics	More info on projects (in lecture material)	Choose project seed/group by end of this week
3 (Jan 23)	The science of field experiments		
4 (Jan 30)	Spatial and Temporal Scales	Glass, 2015 - Enhancing field research methods with mobile survey technology	
5 (Feb 6)	Precision and accuracy		Statement of research and field plan due by the end of this week
6 (Feb 13)	“Dos and Don’ts” in the field		Field visits (weather allowing)
Reading Week (Feb 20)			

7 (Feb 27)	Physical geography field methods	Abeyta et al., 2021 - The True Cost of Field Education is a Barrier to Diversifying Geosciences	Field visits (weather allowing)
8 (Mar 6)	Human geography field methods	Panelli and Welch, 2005 - Teaching research through field studies: A cumulative opportunity for teaching methodology to human geography undergraduates	Field visits (weather allowing)
9 (Mar 13)	Data analysis		Field visits (weather allowing)
10 (Mar 20)	Data presentation		Field visits – if needed (weather allowing) All summaries of field visits due by the end of this week
11 (Mar 27)	Science communication	McEwen et al., 2014 - Using role-play for expert science communication with professional stakeholders in flood risk management	Group presentations
12 (Apr 3)	Review		Peer Review Individual project report due by the last day of class

TEXTS / MATERIALS

No materials required.

Readings will be posted on Learn and copies will be made available to all students.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Component	Value
Statement of research and field plan (pre-field)	15%

Component	Value
Summary of field visits (field)	20%
Group Presentation on project (post-field)	20%
Individual project report (post-field)	35%
Peer Review	10%

Late-submitted work will be credited with 50% of the points received if there is no documented, legitimate reason. For example a 4-day late assignment that received 26/30 points would be credited with 13/30 points. Please communicate with the instructor if you have a documented, legitimate reason for submitting late work – if you communicate clearly and in a timely manner I will work with you!

ASSIGNMENT SCREENING

Text matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course. See Administrative Policy below for more information and links.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Expectations, Diversity Statement, and Additional Statements

I expect you:

- to engage in this course, enjoy it, and ask questions if you do not understand something
- to produce your own work - no cheating or plagiarism

I expect myself:

- to be prepared and organized
- to be available if you need assistance
- to give fair assignments
- to treat all students with respect

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, native language, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

Any student who may need extra assistance meeting the requirements of this course should email me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations to ensure your success in the course.

Territorial Acknowledgement: The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the

Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the [Office of Indigenous Relations](https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/indigenous>)

Intellectual Property: For further information on IP related to teaching, please see https://uwaterloo.ca/legal-and-immigration-services/sites/ca.legal-and-immigration-services/files/uploads/files/volume_1_issue_3_winter_2018.pdf (https://uwaterloo.ca/legal-and-immigration-services/sites/ca.legal-and-immigration-services/files/uploads/files/volume_1_issue_3_winter_2018.pdf) and the Guidelines for Faculty, Staff and Students Entering Relationships with External Organizations Offering Access to Course Materials, <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/faculty-staff-and-students-entering-relationships-external> (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/faculty-staff-and-students-entering-relationships-external>). The following text is recommended:

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Research Ethics: The University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office's Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see: <https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics> (<https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics>)

Anti-racism Statement: The University of Waterloo does not tolerate racism or any other form of discrimination and expects campus community members to contribute to a culture where all members feel safe and valued. Any member of the campus community who has experienced racism or discrimination at the University is encouraged to seek guidance from the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-racism (EDI-R) via email at equity@uwaterloo.ca

(mailto:equity@uwaterloo.ca) or through their website: > [uwaterloo.ca/human-rights-equity-inclusion/ about/equity-office3](http://uwaterloo.ca/human-rights-equity-inclusion/about/equity-office3)

Co-op interviews and class attendance: Co-op students are encouraged to try and choose interview time slots that result in the least amount of disruption to class schedules. When this is challenging, or not possible, a student may miss a portion of a class meeting for an interview. Instructors are asked for leniency in these situations; but, a co-op interview does not relieve the student of any requirements associated with that class meeting.

When a co-op interview conflicts with an in-class evaluation mechanism (e.g., test, quiz, presentation, critique), class attendance takes precedence and the onus is on the student to reschedule the interview. CEE provides an interview conflict procedure to manage these situations.

Students will be required to provide copies of their interview schedules (they may be printed from WaterlooWorks) should there be a need to verify class absence due to co-op interviews.

Declaring an absence: Regardless of the process used to declare an absence, instructors maintain agency over decisions regarding course component accommodations.

Self-declared absences (for flu-like illness, short-term 48 hour self declared absences) must be submitted through Quest.

Absences requiring documentation (e.g. Verification of Illness Form, bereavement, etc.) - send your documentation to env-vif@uwaterloo. Do not send documentation to your advisor, course instructor, teaching assistant, or lab coordinator. Submission to env-vif@uwaterloo.ca () will notify all of your instructors of your absence.

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. **Please note that help is available.** Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services <https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/> (<https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/>) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

All students are encouraged to download the WatSAFE app which is available free through the google and iOS app stores. The WatSAFE app provides on- and off-campus contacts for students in distress, including international students, and other information related to campus safety and security.

Religious Observances: Students need to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Communications with Instructor and Teaching Assistants: All communication with students must be through either the student's University of Waterloo email account or via LEARN. If a student emails the instructor or TA from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.

Recording lecture: Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: facebook, twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) . When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) . For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>) .

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>) .

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/>) , located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.