

GEOG 290 - FALL 2013
LOCAL GEOGRAPHICAL EXCURSION MONT SUTTON, QUEBEC

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27th (7:45 a.m.) – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29th (6:00 p.m.)

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The first aim of the course is to acquaint you with some of the contrasting landscapes, land uses, and histories in two major physiographic regions in Southern Quebec: the St Lawrence Lowlands; and the Appalachian Region of the Eastern Townships (L'Estrie). The second aim is to introduce basic geographical field techniques used in geomorphology, hydrology, biogeography and human geography. You will gain hands on experience and appreciation of the practical difficulties and sources of error encountered in gathering the basic data used in geographical work. Last but not least, this is a great opportunity to break the ice with your class mates and professors in the Geography Program.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1. **A PRELIMINARY MEETING will be held on Tuesday September 17th at 2:30pm in Burnside Hall, Room 426.** We will introduce the course, distribute preparatory reading material and a pre-field trip exercise, cover health and safety issues including allergies, and answer any questions about logistics. It is essential that you attend. If you cannot attend, please contact Prof. Rhemtulla (jeanine.rhemtulla@mcgill.ca) prior to the meeting to make alternate arrangements or you may be dropped from the course.

2. Field trip departure will be from the Roddick Gates (McGill) at 8am, Friday September 27th (please arrive at 7:45am). This first day of the field school includes a number of stops to study landscapes and land uses along the road from Montreal to Sutton. Bring a lunch bag. Arrival at Sutton will be around 6 pm at Hotel Horizon (297 Maple Street) in time for dinner. The telephone number at the hotel FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY is: 450-538-3212.

3. The second day, Saturday, is devoted to an intense program of field activities at various locations in the Sutton River valley. Students will measure stream discharge, study the distribution of gravel sizes on the stream bed, survey channel cross-sectional shapes, measure soil profiles, study human landscape change and impacts, core trees, and describe plant succession.

4. Sunday morning and early afternoon will be spent undertaking a final field activity regarding tourism, completing data analysis and field reports and discussing results. The bus will then return students to Roddick Gates before 6:00 p.m. All work must be handed in before the end of this day. This is a pass/fail course.

WHAT TO BRING:

Accommodation and meals (except lunch on Friday) are provided. Make sure you bring warm clothes suited to walking through damp bush in fall. It may be wet and cold (bring rain gear AND umbrellas, mittens and tuques), but then again it may not. *Good waterproof footwear is essential: rubber boots are highly recommended since you will work in and around a shallow stream channel.* A black market in extra wool socks is expected. Also bring: paper, pens and pencils, clipboard, ruler and calculator for writing reports.

COST: *There is an additional cost for this course which will be added to your fee account and is not refundable.*

Professors: Prof. Jeanine Rhemtulla (coordinator), Prof. Wayne Pollard, Prof. Michel Lapointe, and Prof. Brian Robinson