

GEOG 290 - FALL 2022
LOCAL GEOGRAPHICAL EXCURSION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 (8:00 a.m.) – SUNDAY, October 2 (6:00 p.m.)

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The first aim of the course is to acquaint students with some of the contrasting landscapes and land uses 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 students to basic geographical field techniques used in geomorphology, climatology, biogeography and human geography. Students 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 classmates in the Geography Program.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1. A PRELIMINARY MEETING will be held on Thursday, September 22nd at 5:15pm in Burnside Hall, Room 426. The instructors will introduce the course, distribute preparatory reading material and a pre-field trip exercise, cover health and safety issues, and answer any questions about logistics. Attendance is mandatory.
2. Field trip departure will be from near the Roddick Gates (McGill) at 8am, Friday, September 30th. 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 Le Montagnard (264 Maple Street) in time for dinner. The telephone number at the hotel FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY is: 450-538-9966.
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, and describe vegetation 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:

The hotel provides bedding so sleeping bags and pillows are not required. Make sure you bring warm clothes suited to walking through damp bush in fall. It may be wet and cold (bring rain gear), 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 socks is expected. Also bring: paper, pens and pencils, clipboard, ruler and calculator. These will be needed to prepare reports.

COST:

There is an additional cost of \$412.99 fee course for fall 2022. This fee will be added to your fee account and is not refundable.

Course Coordinator: Prof. Oliver Coomes