PURPOSE
The purpose of this course is to gain first-hand experience with geographical field research. Students will apply skills acquired through techniques courses within the geography program to investigate topics emphasizing human systems, biophysical processes, as well as their interaction.

STRUCTURE
A 12-day excursion to Down East, Maine is scheduled for August 22\textsuperscript{nd} to September 2\textsuperscript{nd} during which students will plan and operationalize research projects. They will process, interpret and analyze collected data during the Fall 2016 semester. Class sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays 2:30-5:20pm, a detailed schedule of events will be posted to CourseLink.

ASSESSMENT (this is tentative)
Field Presentation 10\% - Based on selected readings focused on aspects of Coastal Maine, Sustainability, Resources, and the overall Geography of the region students are required to give a short presentation (~6-8 minutes) and then lead the class in a follow-up discussion of their topic. The purpose of this assignment is to complete some preparation work/readings and introduce the rest of the class to a given topic at the beginning of the trip. Further details and topics will be confirmed in the summer (at least 2 weeks prior to the trip). The presentations are expected to be ‘no-tech’, or ‘low-tech’.

Field notebook 20\% - Students are required to keep a daily log of their research activities and experiences while in the field, including guest lectures, field trips, and data collection. Instructors will provide students with reflective questions or specific tasks to be completed within the field notebooks. Notebooks will be collected on the last day of the field trip (September 2).

Project Report 30\% - This report summarizes your research objectives, the literature in which you are working, your methods, findings and interpretations. Initial draft is due Nov 3 (week 8) (80\% of your grade), final draft is due last day of class (Nov 30).

Project Presentation 10\% - You are expected to prepare and execute a short (10-12 min) presentation of your research project (weeks 9-11).

Field Course Symposium Presentation 10\% - Near the end of the term (week 11 or 12), our class will hold a field course symposium in which you are expected to prepare a poster and to discuss it with other Geography faculty and students The topics will be announced in September. Timing is tba – likely 4:30-6:30 on Wednesday Nov 23 (week 11) or Wednesday Nov 30 (week 12).

Engagement 10\% - Throughout the field trip and course it is expected that you are prepared and engaged with the course material. The quality of your contributions during trip excursions,
key informant talks, peer presentations will be assessed as part of your final grade in this course.

REQUIREMENTS
To enroll in Geog*4690, students must (a) have completed 12.5 credits; (b) be majors in one of Environmental Geoscience and Geomatics, Environmental Governance, Geography or Environmental Resource Management (B.Sc.Env) with a cumulative overall average of at least 70% at time of registration for Fall 2016 courses.

To participate in GEOG*4690, students must (a) hold a valid (expiry dates CAN NOT be within 6 months of September 2, 2016) passport for travel to the United States (and proof of eligibility for USA entry if applicable); (b) purchase health and travel insurance (proof required); (c) sign travel release forms; (d) sign a contract of conduct; (e) complete and provide proof of travel tutorial from Centre for International Programs for the field excursion portion of the course. Photocopies (of passport/travel documents; insurance coverage) and signed originals (of travel release; contract of conduct; CIP tutorial forms) must be submitted to the instructors no later than July 31st 2016.

Students must provide a deposit of $500.00 by February 29th 2016 and the remaining balance (TBA) by May 1, 2016. Cheques should be made out to the Department of Geography, University of Guelph. Partial or full refunds are not possible except in extenuating circumstances.

FINANCIAL ISSUES
The approximate cost of the field excursion (August 22-September 2) will be between $1600 and $1800 per student. This includes transportation (van rental & fuel costs), accommodation (room and board for 11 nights at Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor, ME), and incidentals (e.g. tourist site fees, whale watching). Budget will be confirmed once deposits are received and is highly dependent on the Canadian to US currency exchange rate.

To help with travel costs, you may wish to consider CSAHS Undergraduate Awards: http://www.uoguelph.ca/csahs/academics/awards/undergraduate-awards
Specifically the following travel grants may be of interest (be sure to check online for specific requirements and deadlines)

- Grants for Undergraduate Experiential Learning $500-1000
- Latornell Undergraduate Travel Grants [T0058] $1000
- Hungerford Undergraduate Travel Scholarships [T4508] $1000
- University of Guelph Travel Scholarships [T0421] $1500
- Kiyoko Miyanishi International Travel Grant [T0742] $3500
- Wardlaw Travel Grant [T0665] $1000
- Geography Field Trip Travel Grant [T0584] $400

[Details for majority of above awards found in Undergraduate Calendar: http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c09/sec_d0e16496.shtml]
E-mail Communication
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement
When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Drop Date
The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 4, 2016. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments
Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email SAS@uoguelph.ca or see the Student Accessibility Services website.

Academic Misconduct
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Recording of Materials
Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied
without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources**

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.