

GEO 773: Field Studies (Italy/Austria) - Fall 2014

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Office Hours: Th 1:00pm-3:00pm
Lectures: M 3:10pm-6:00pm, KHE332
Labs/Tutorials: N/A
Pre-requisites: N/A

Course Instructor: Prof. Stephen Swales
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Office Hours: Posted
Lectures: in field
Labs/Tutorials: N/A
Pre-requisites: N/A

Course Instructor: Dr. Peter Kedron
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Office Hours: Posted
Lectures: in field
Labs/Tutorials: N/A
Pre-requisites: N/A

***** No Faculty Course Survey will be administered for this course.*****

Course Description: The field portion of Geo773: Field Studies (Italy/Austria) will take place from September 12 to 21, 2014. It is designed to expose students to a range of issues particular to the destination countries and regions. Geo773: Field Studies is a professional elective course offered to students in the 3rd and 4th year of the Geographic Analysis Program.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they possess the necessary documentation for admission to Italy and Austria - (i.e., Passport, visa if necessary). If you have any questions about this, contact Sally Wong (Geographic Analysis Program Assistant) at 416-979-5038 or Wayne Forsythe (forsythe@geography.ryerson.ca).

Space is at a premium, so baggage will be restricted to one bag per person (the airline charges ~\$100.00 for a second bag). Any medical problem should be pointed out to faculty prior to leaving Toronto. If you require prescription drugs, be sure they are kept in the original prescription bottle, or are accompanied by the prescription. Students must obtain out-of-country medical coverage (Blue Cross or equivalent supplemental medical coverage) for the period of the field trip (unless you already covered by a plan for foreign medical expenses) prior to departure.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students should expect to have an understanding of how geographic field work is conducted. In addition, the collection of field data and their role in decision-making and the generation of knowledge will be focal points of the course.

Required Texts: There is no required textbook for this course.

Posting of Grades: Grades will not be posted.

Course Evaluation: While in Italy and Austria, students are required to make observations, reflections and conclusions during scheduled activities and maintain an in-field observation journal. Independent observations must be made throughout the field trip and will be a valuable source of additional information. Together, these can encompass your notes, sketches and other illustrations, summaries, data, collected information, proposals, insights and comparisons. (You should not offer a collection of filler material - brochures and other handouts - collected during the trip; nor provide a transcription of the notes and discussions).

You will be assigned to a group (here will be five groups with each one assigned a particular topic related to the field trip). In total, your group should put together a body of work expressing your insights and understanding of the topic that is assigned. Good presentations will be comprehensive, concise, thoughtful, insightful and perceptive. You will be given directions each day (while in the field) to assist you in organizing your observations and tips on presentation content.

Course Component	Weight	Due Date
Post-trip Test - multiple choice.	30%	October 27 at the beginning of class.
In-field Observation Journal - individual assignment, see course evaluation above. Details handed-out during the class on September 8.	20%	October 27 at the end of class.
Group Assignment - see course evaluation above. Details handed-out during the class on September 8.	50%	Presentations (according to a random draw) from 4:10 to 6:00pm on October 27.

The first graded assignment results that will be available are the Post-trip Test on November 3.

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sept. 8	Schedule, logistics, in-field observation journal, and group assignment preparation. Presentation from Ryerson International.
2	Sept. 13-21	In the field.
3	Oct. 27	Post-trip Test followed by Group Assignment Presentations.

IMPORTANT DATES: The class will meet two times during the fall semester in addition to nine days in the field.

The class prior to departure – date September 8, mandatory attendance (a 20% total course grade reduction will be administered for non-attendance).

The scheduled class on October 27: mandatory attendance (a 20% total course grade reduction will be administered for non-attendance in addition to a grade of zero for the group assignment presentation. All group assignment presentations will occur during this class). The In-field observation journal must also be handed-in at the end of class.

Course Policies

All assignments must be handed directly to your instructor. Use of the essay/assignment drop box on the 6th floor of Jorgenson Hall will result in an automatic grade of 0 for the assignment.

Your instructor will endeavour to return lab assignments within two weeks of their due date.

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all work must be done individually. Late penalty on all required course material: 50% per day (not accepted if more than **one (1) school day late unless a medical certificate is submitted or other acceptable arrangements have been made and confirmed in writing prior to the due date**).

In order to receive a passing grade for the course, students must:

- 1) Meet acceptable standards in the required assignments;
- 2) Participate in the scheduled activities on the field trip itinerary (a 20% total course grade reduction will be administered for each scheduled event on the field trip where students fail to participate; a 10% total course grade reduction will be administered for each scheduled event on the field trip where students are late; a 10% total course grade reduction will be administered for each instance where students are late for transportation departure times); and
- 3) Meet professional standards of conduct. Students must adhere to the Student Code of Academic and Non-academic Conduct and other relevant university policies. You are responsible for reading the code. Proper student conduct is crucial on a trip of this nature - any breach will be addressed by instituting disciplinary action.

Course Variations

Students are **required** to sign:

- 1) a Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risks and Indemnity Agreement from the Department of Geography, Ryerson University, and
- 2) a Waiver Form from Ryerson University

http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/ehss/pdfs/forms/IntlTravel_StudentLiabilityWaiver.pdf

In addition, students are required to register with the Ryerson University, Office of International Affairs (OIA) at: https://141.117.179.53/RyersonIMDB/IMDB_FieldTrip.aspx Note: you may get a security warning for this link. Add the security exception if asked.

Electronics in Class

The use of laptop computers is allowed. All other electronic devices are not permitted.

Department Late Policy

The Department of Geography has a late assignment policy which specifies a minimum penalty of 20% per calendar day, as outlined in the [Department of Geography Student Handbook](#).

Missed Classes and/or Evaluations

Students are required to inform their instructors of any situation which arises during the semester which may have an adverse effect upon their academic performance, and must request any considerations and

accommodations according to the relevant policies and well in advance. Failure to do so will jeopardize any academic appeals.

- *Medical certificates* – If a student misses the deadline for submitting an assignment, or the date of an exam or other evaluation component because of illness, he or she must submit a Ryerson Student Medical Certificate AND an Academic Consideration form within 3 working days of the missed date. Both documents are available at www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/medical.pdf. **If you are a full-time or part-time degree student, then you submit your forms to your own program department or school. If you are a certificate or non-certificate student, then you submit your forms to the staff at the front desk of the Chang School.**
- *Religious observance* – If a student needs accommodation because of religious observance, he or she must submit a Request for Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance AND an Academic Consideration form within the first 2 weeks of the class or, for a final examination, within 2 weeks of the posting of the examination schedule. If the required absence occurs within the first 2 weeks of classes, or the dates are not known well in advance as they are linked to other conditions, these forms should be submitted with as much lead time as possible in advance of the required absence. Both documents are available at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/reobservforminstr.pdf>. **If you are a full-time or part-time degree student, then you submit the forms to your own program department or school. If you are a certificate or non-certificate student, then you submit the forms to the staff at the front desk of the Chang School.**
- *Students with disabilities* – In order to facilitate the academic success and access of students with disabilities, they should register with the Access Centre <http://www.ryerson.ca/studentervices/accesscentre/index.html>. Before the first graded work is due, students should also inform their instructor through an “Accommodation Form for Professors” that they are registered with the Access Centre and what accommodations are required.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Ryerson’s Policy 60 (the *Student Code of Academic Conduct*) applies to all students at the University. The policy and its procedures are triggered in the event that there is a suspicion that a student has engaged in a form of academic misconduct.

Forms of academic misconduct include plagiarism, cheating, supplying false information to the University, and other acts. The most common form of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and penalties can be severe. In any academic exercise, plagiarism occurs when one offers as one’s own work the words, data, ideas, arguments, calculations, designs or productions of another without appropriate attribution or when one allows one’s work to be copied.

All academic work must be submitted using the citation style approved by the instructor.

It is assumed that all examinations and work submitted for evaluation and course credit will be the product of individual effort, except in the case of group projects arranged for and approved by the course instructor. Submitting the same work to more than one course, without instructor approval, is also considered a form of plagiarism.

Students are advised that suspicions of academic misconduct may be referred to the Academic Integrity Office (AIO). Students who are charged with academic misconduct will have a Disciplinary Notation (DN)

placed on their academic record (not on their transcript) and will be assigned one or more of the following penalties:

- A grade reduction for the plagiarized work
- A zero for the plagiarized work
- An F in the course
- More serious penalties up to and including expulsion from the University

For more detailed information on these issues, please refer to the full online text for the *Student Code of Academic Conduct* at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol60-F2014.pdf> and the Academic Integrity Website at www.ryerson.ca/ai.

Plagiarism Detection Service

Turnitin will not be used.

Class Participation and Attendance

Students are required to attend class (as noted above).

Student Email Policy

According to the [Establishment And Use Of Ryerson Student E-Mail Accounts For Official University Communication Policy](#), students are required to use their Ryerson email address for communication with the instructor. It is the responsibility of students to check their Ryerson email and the course website regularly.

Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct

It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the [Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct](#) and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with generally accepted standards of behaviour, University regulations and policies.

Important Resources Available at Ryerson

Use the services of the University when you are having problems writing, editing or researching papers, or when you need help with course material:

- **The Library** (LIB 2nd floor) provides research workshops and individual assistance. Inquire at the Reference Desk or at www.ryerson.ca/library/info/workshops.html
- **The Writing Centre** (LIB 272- B) offers one-on-one tutorial help with writing and workshops www.ryerson.ca/writingcentre/workshops.htm
- **Learning Success** (VIC B-15) offers individual sessions and workshops covering various aspects of researching, writing, and studying. You must book these directly through their website <http://www.ryerson.ca/student services/learningsuccess/>
- **English Language Support** (VIC B-17) offers workshops to improve overall communication skills www.ryerson.ca/student services/els/

There is one general site where you may see and register for all of the workshops offered by all of these areas: <http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/workshops.html>