

Geology 9601y: Regional Field School

Instructor: Dr. A. Guy Plint

A ten-day field trip to study aspects of the Appalachian Orogen in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. 1st September to 10th September, 2017.

Enrollment: Students planning to take this course should have a reasonable grounding in igneous and sedimentary petrology, and in structural geology. Participation is at the discretion of the instructor. Course fees for Accelerated Masters students are included in their Academic Fees. Other graduate students are responsible for their own costs (typically about \$1,600).

If you intend to take this field course, you must inform the Academic Co-ordinator (Jennifer Heidenheim) of your intention to participate by April 30th 2017.

Travel & Accommodation. Air Canada flights between London and Halifax, minivan transport between field localities. Motel accommodation & restaurant meals; picnic lunches. Students pay for breakfast and supper; Department pays for picnic lunches.

Syllabus

Currently this Field School is run to Maritime Canada (New Brunswick & Nova Scotia). The trip usually occupies nine working days, with a half day travel at each end. The main points of the trip are as follows:

In **Maritime Canada**, the trip involves rocks that record the Opening of Iapetus Ocean, represented by the passive margin succession of the Meguma Group, whereas ocean closure is represented by various island arc volcano-sedimentary successions. The Acadian Orogeny is represented by major granite plutons (South Mountain Batholith) and attendant thermal metamorphic aureole. A post-orogenic Mississippian strike-slip basin is represented by evaporites and limestones of the Windsor Group, and by lacustrine deposits of the Horton Group. A Pennsylvanian strike-slip basin is represented by the Joggins Formation. Late Triassic rift basins related to early opening of the Atlantic Ocean are represented by playa-lacustrine-braided river deposits of the Scots Bay, Wolfville and Blomidon formations. Triassic axial and marginal alluvial fan systems are also seen in New Brunswick in the context of complex compressive-extensional fault reactivation and unconformity development near St. Martins. Earliest Jurassic rift-related basaltic volcanism is represented by several hundred metres of stacked lava flows of the North Mountain Basalt, seen north of Wolfville N.S. and at Five Islands, N.S. The Minas Geofracture (plate-scale strike-slip fault zone) that separates the N American (Avalon Terrane) from Gondwana (Meguma Terrane) is seen near Parrsboro N.S., including exotic mega-blocks of deep crustal rocks. The effects of strike-slip transpression are also seen in paleo-earthquake features in Pennsylvanian strata and in an inverted stratigraphic succession seen in a flower structure near Saint John N.B., and in recumbent folds and thrusts near Tynemouth Creek, N.B. Precambrian gneissic basement underlying Cambrian sediments are seen in Saint John. Every stop (about 25 in total) involves observation and description of the rocks on hand, followed by local and 'big-picture' interpretations. Mapping and/or stratigraphic exercises are conducted in at least three localities, involving structural/sedimentary relationships, graphic logging and intrusive-host rock mapping.

Evaluation for Graduate Students:

- 10% Attitude & Participation
- 20% Quality of Field Notes
- 20% Field Mapping Exercises
- 30% Final Exam (2 hours, held in Saint John on the last morning).
- 20% Literature review exercise for a specified field locality (to be completed after the field trip).

Text. A custom-prepared field guide will be issued.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Synthesize theoretical knowledge of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks to guide the observation, description and interpretation of a wide range of rocks seen in a field situation.
2. Integrate concepts of plate tectonics and basin-forming mechanisms to interpret varied rock types in their field context.
3. Apply graphic logging techniques to document sedimentary successions in selected outcrop sites, and use that information as a basis for the reconstruction of depositional environments.
4. Construct structural-stratigraphic cross-sections in deformed rocks, from which geological history will be deduced.

Academic Offences:

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Absence from Exams

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Dean's office as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. In the event of a missed final exam, a "Recommendation of Special Examination" form must be obtained from the Dean's Office immediately. For further information please see: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

Accommodation due to Illness

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness, should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Records Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services.

The form can be found here:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf
(which includes a link to the [Student Medical Certificate](#))

Emotional/Mental Health Distress

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessibility

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Support Services

Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Registrarial Services are available at : <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>, and Student Support Services are listed at <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Religious Holidays

Please see this link for University policy on accommodation for Religious Holidays.

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf