

Earth Sciences 2250Y Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information

ES2250Y: Introductory Field Mapping Techniques

Location: Whitefish Falls, Ontario

Dates: May 1-11, 2025

List of Pre/Corequisites

[Earth Sciences 1022A/B](#) or [Earth Sciences 2200A/B](#) or permission of the Department

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Department of Earth Sciences to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Patricia Corcoran (Course Coordinator)	pcorcor@uwo.ca	BGS1068	519-661-2111 x83187	See below
Dr. Wyatt Bain (Co-Instructor)	wbain2@uwo.ca	BGS1070	519-661-2111 x83187	See below
Jack Hostrawser (TA)	jhostraw@uwo.ca			See below
Tessa Lacasse (TA)	tlacass@uwo.ca			See below

Instructors and TAs will be available from 8 am to 6 pm every day between May 1 and 11. After-hours meetings can be arranged in advance if needed.

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

This course is an eleven-day field camp that takes place from **May 1-11** near the towns of Espanola, Elliot Lake, Little Current, and the City of Sudbury. Students will be conducting field/course work every day. If a student misses the departure of the vans, fails to be present for any of the days of instruction (including the departure and return days), or fails to participate, marks will be deducted from the student's final grade. The amount deducted will be determined by the course instructor(s).

Learning Outcomes

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

- Draft a detailed stratigraphic section through clastic and/or carbonate strata;
- Measure bedding and cross-bedding in ancient rocks using a geological compass;
- Traverse through the bush using a compass and pacing;
- Identify key sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rock types in the field;
- Create a geological map using satellite imagery and GPS

Field and/or course work will take place every day between May 1 and 11. Most days, the course will run between 9 am and 5 pm but some days may start earlier (8 am) or run later (6 pm), or there may be an evening assignment after 6 pm. Specific times may be altered depending on weather conditions.

4. Course Materials

Students may check the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) on a regular basis for news and updates. Students will also be given instructions each morning and each evening in person.

A detailed list of required materials (including clothing) for the course will be provided on the OWL site by the end of March. No textbooks or advanced readings are required for the course, but every student must attend a field safety meeting, which will take place prior to the end of March.

Partial cost of the field expenses must be borne by the student, and it is payable to the Department by the February deadline. The cost per student is \$475 in 2025-2026. Fees are non-refundable in the event of a course drop, except in extenuating circumstances.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Grading Scheme

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Assignments (3; stratigraphic section, paleocurrent analysis, geological traverse)	15%
Quizzes (3; following trips to Sudbury, Elliot Lake, Manitoulin Island or Whitefish Falls)	15%
Maps (2; due May 10 th , includes field notes)	30%
Participation (based on engagement throughout the period of May 1-11)	10%
Final exam (May 9th, theory and rock identification, done on site)	30%

General Information about Missed Coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All Academic Consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available while in the field, assessments of requests will be made based on personal interaction with the instructors and/or TAs.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

The instructors will not grant extensions for missed assignments unless a valid medical reason has been provided. In such a case, the student will either have a grade make-up opportunity or the other grades will be reweighted.

Absences from Final Examinations

When a student misses the Final Exam and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Essential Learning Requirements

All assignments, maps, and the final exam must be completed to pass the course.

Flexible Completion

This course has 3 quizzes. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration for 1 missed quiz. Academic consideration requests will be denied if students miss the other 2 quizzes.

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday or observance conflicts with an examination, test, or other scheduled academic obligation, students must request accommodation via the University's Student Absence Portal (SAP). This request should identify the conflict and specify which course component(s) (e.g. test, midterm, exam) are affected.

Students are encouraged to submit the SAP request as early as possible, but no later than two weeks before any examination, or one week before any mid-term test or quiz, to allow sufficient time for adjustment.

The SAP request serves as official notification to both the course instructor and the Academic Advising Office, in accordance with University policy:

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

The Faculty of Science considers religious accommodations as scheduling conflicts. Instructors should provide either a make-up exam or an earlier sitting of the same exam to accommodate the student.

For more information on recognized religious holidays, please visit the Diversity Calendar posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca>

6.2 Academic Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and

cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

6.3 General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: In accordance with policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

6.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic Offences:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Electronic Devices During Assessments

In courses offered by the Faculty of Science, the possession of unauthorized electronic devices during any in-person assessment (such as tests, midterms, and final examinations) is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: mobile phones, smart watches, smart glasses, and wireless earbuds or headphones.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in advance by the instructor, the presence of any such device at your desk, on your person, or within reach during an assessment will be treated as a *scholastic offence*, even if the device is not in use.

Only devices expressly permitted by the instructor (e.g., non-programmable calculators) may be brought into the assessment room. It is your responsibility to review and comply with these expectations.

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is your responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

6.5 Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. If you have any questions regarding accommodations, you may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.