

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**GEOG 4811 – Rural Geography– 2014**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

*Instructor*

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EMAIL POLICY: My official LU email is [wrwilson@aspencroft.ca](mailto:wrwilson@aspencroft.ca). If I have more than a few emails about the same topic I will probably respond with a blanket posting. In my experience, many questions are answered very well by other individuals in the course.

*Introduction*

Welcome to GEOG 4811 Rural Geography. This class will provide you with an exploration of the many and varied cultural worlds of the rural landscape. If you have never done this type of course before, you may find the tempo challenging: this is a senior course and there is much reading and discussion expected. Please plan accordingly. This course is meant to prepare you to go out in the world with a solid knowledge of the physical, biological, and cultural geographies of rural life around the world.

*Aim*

By the end of this course, successful students should understand:

- 1) The varied vocabulary and concepts of rural geography
- 2) The many different rural cultures that have constructed modern North America
- 3) The dynamic of the physical environment on this continent and how it can impact how people live in different areas
- 4) The use of a variety of technologies to study how people live.

Successful students will also gain technical skills in:

- 1) Writing;
- 2) Research;
- 3) Cartography;

Successful students will emerge from this class with an absolutely unbearable need to travel and see rural areas. You should also develop a set of skills and a mind-set to allow you to conduct your expeditions, employment, and travels in an appropriate and culturally sensitive fashion.

*Learning Methods*

There is no final examination in this course. We will meet weekly in seminar format and conduct 2 field trips to locations in rural Thunder Bay. You will be responsible for your transportation to the location of the field trips.

*Workload and Expectations of Excellence*

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|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 2 Field Trip reports  | – 45% of final grade | After field trip |
| Seminar participation | – 10% of final grade |                  |
| Large project/paper   | – 45% of final grade | Last day         |