

Geography 3633 *Geography of the Lake Superior Basin* Fall 2015



INSTRUCTOR: Graham Saunders gvsaunde@lakeheadu.ca

LECTURE TIMES AND LOCATION: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. RB 3027

CONTENT: Lake Superior is the largest body of fresh water in the world and a dominant feature in the geography of Northwestern Ontario. Most people in this course are acquainted with the geological history of the Basin and geomorphic processes that follow the last ice age. These events and processes will be reviewed.

Lake Superior and connected waterways have provided trade routes for hundreds, even thousands, of years. We will examine early travel and commerce, and more recent development based on mining, forestry and shipping of these resources.

Topics in the final weeks of the course will focus on recent historical events, economic developments and contemporary issues.

There will be optional fieldwork and one or more guest speakers.

SEMINARS: Seminars, presented by students, will be based on research of historical and recent topics. These will commence in week four or five.

PAPER AND PRESENTATION: Each student will prepare a major paper. A list of topics will be provided, although students have the option of presenting original work of their own design. The paper must do more than summarize. Critical analysis of the topic is expected.

We will discuss the presentation format. I think a “Conference” style serves several purposes including a “dress rehearsal” for those defending their thesis and/or public or academic presentations.

Questions regarding the topics or ideas for new topics should be discussed early in the term.

People in this course will have a role in designing a course that captures some of the “essence” of the greatest lake in the Great Lakes system. There will be no formal examination. There will be in-class tests based on lecture and seminar material. These topics and a potential group research project will be discussed when we meet on Day 1, September 15.

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| MARK DISTRIBUTION: | Seminar | 20% |
| | Paper and presentation | 40% |
| | In-class work and tests | <u>40%</u> |

Geography 3633 *Geography of the Lake Superior Basin* Fall 2015 (continued)

A PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF COURSE TOPICS:

- The scheduling of these topics could change according to when guest speaker(s) are available and other circumstances
- It is not the definitive list, topics will be added / deleted.

Topics include the following:

- Glacial lakes and the Younger Dryas event
- The fur trade, shipping, forestry and other economic activities
- The Seaway
- Shipwrecks and the “Witches of November”
- Weather and climate: Wind and waves
- International Joint Commission
- Contemporary issues
 - industrial use
 - shoreline ownership
 - water diversion
 - recreation
 - invasive species: land and marine
 - climate change, changes in Lake dynamics (examples include seasonal temperature and ice cover duration) and changes in water levels
 - marine parks/reserves

