

GEOG 4170 – Field Methods & Mapping introduces geography students to various techniques used in gathering field data. It aims to provide a foundation for identifying, collecting, mapping, and recording human and environment data in the field. Students interested in human geography, ethnobiology, archaeology, ecology, and physical geography, to name a few perspectives, will learn to systematically collect several types of data. The first part of the course deals with *mapping*, a fundamental geographic activity. Students learn how to collect data with a clearly spatial dimension. Emphasis is placed on mapping small areas because data at this scale are usually what geographers do not already possess, and, therefore, need. Also, working at this scale gives students a first-hand appreciation for the processes involved in *systematically* collecting and *recording* data. Instruction during this part of the course is very focused; students are closely *supervised*. The *second part* of the course focuses on the collection of various types of *human* and *environmental data*. Instruction during the second half of the semester is less supervised than in the first half. Students are given a great deal of *liberty* to hone their skills at making *professional judgments*. The focus of this course is on landscapes, especially those that are material and visible. Instruction includes outdoor lectures and exercises. This course involves hands-on experience. **Students can expect to be hot, cold, dirty, and wet.** Research methods, project formulation, laboratory data analyses, and cartography are *not* part of this course. This course deals exclusively with outdoor data collection techniques