

**Course Description:**

This week-long course explores the winter environments of New England through a number of day-long and half-day hikes, readings, and discussion. We will explore Connecticut's famous traprock ridges, eastern hardwood forests, the glaciated Riga Plateau and Long Island Sound. Students are expected to participate in four of five hikes, participate in class discussions and investigate one of these environments in greater depth. This course includes a significant outdoor component and will expose you to wintry, possibly cold and/or wet environments. It requires adequate clothing and footwear as the hikes will be rain (snow) or shine. Additional equipment (e.g., snow shoes, microspikes) is available through Trinity's outdoor program. Students are strongly encouraged to check the course syllabus and contact the instructor with any questions prior to registering for the course.

**Instructor:** Christoph Geiss  
 McCook 217  
[christoph.geiss@trincoll.edu](mailto:christoph.geiss@trincoll.edu)  
 office hours: by appointment

**Time:** Jan 6<sup>th</sup> – Jan 10<sup>th</sup>  
 half day hikes: 9AM – 2PM  
 full day hikes: 9AM – 6PM

The dates for these field trips are listed in the table below. You are required to attend four of the listed five hikes.

Date	Day	hike	duration	length (miles)	effort
1/2/2023	Thu	Introductory Zoom meeting	10:00AM - noon		
1/6/2023	Mon	Castle Craig (Meriden)	half day	4	moderate
1/7/2023	Thu	Bluff Head – featuring Prof. Falk	half day	4	moderate
1/8/2023	Tue	River Highlands SP (Cromwell)	half day	2.5	easy
1/9/2023	Wed	Bluff Point SP (Groton)	all day	5	moderate
1/10/2023	Fri	Bear Mountain (Salisbury)	full day	5 – 6	moderate to strenuous

**Grading:**

The course earns you 0.5 credits and bears a wellness credit in civil and environmental engagement. I will post several reading assignments on the Moodle course site. Response papers on these readings are due the day of the hike.

We will have some discussions about winter environments on the hikes and I expect you to be an active participant rather than simply slogging along.

Hike / class participation: 50%  
 Daily response papers: 20%  
 Final paper: 20% (due January 17<sup>th</sup> at midnight)

**What to bring:**

We will hike every day, rain (snow) or shine. If conditions are particularly gnarly, I might modify a hike but hiking we will (unless the governor shuts the state down :). No, you do not need superhuman strength and stamina but be prepared to be outside. To stay comfortable and safe you need the following:

- A pair of hiking boots (waterproof preferred) and warm socks. You may be able to do some hikes in sneakers, but in the past, we've hiked through snow or mud and you'd be pretty miserable.
- A rain jacket with hood. Good against rain and wind. Staying dry means staying warm, means staying comfortable.
- A warm jacket to go under your rain jacket.
- A hat and gloves.
- Snacks / lunch / water bottle (it's likely going to be cool, so you won't drink a ton)
- A backpack to fit it all in.

None of that needs to be fancy.