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COURSES IN TOPONYMY IN CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES: A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

Courses in Toponymy in Canadian Universities. A Preliminary Survey

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Note

Very few undergraduate and graduate courses are taught in Canadian universities which deal specifically with toponymy. In many cases, the study of place names is viewed as a branch of onomastics (the study of proper names) along with anthroponomy (the study of personal names). In many universities, toponymy is given some treatment as a component in a variety of courses such as geography, history, folklore, sociology and linguistics, underlining the multidisciplinary nature of the subject area.

This preliminary list was compiled from information provided by members of the Advisory Committee on Toponymic Research of the CPCGN and of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names and is by no means exhaustive. It should be noted that the survey does not include ongoing research projects, a list of which can be found in CANOMA 14/2 (1988).

1. Memorial University, St. John's (Newfoundland)

Geography 2001: Cultural Geography
English 4420: Dialectology
Linguistics 4403: Etymology
Folklore 4400: Traditional Culture
French 4400: Traditional Culture

Informal discussions are proceeding to introduce a graduate course in toponymy as an interdisciplinary subject matter.

2. University of New Brunswick, Fredericton (New Brunswick)

English 3030: Linguistic Introduction to Canadian English
Possible emphasis.

3. Université de Moncton, Moncton (Nouveau-Brunswick)

Français 1810: Introduction à la linguistique
Possible emphasis.

4. Université Laval, Québec (Québec)

GGR 18345: Introduction à la toponymie

This course is the only one in Canada to deal specifically with toponymy. The course syllabus includes a general introduction to the discipline, a presentation of various research tools and a field survey. The course relies on documentation and research material available at the Commission de toponymie du Québec.

5. Université de Montréal, Montréal (Québec)

LNG 2280: Introduction à l'onomastique

This course studies the various aspects of onomastics, the study of proper names. Various aspects of toponymy are discussed in light of other disciplines such as linguistics, history, geography, anthropology and sociology.

6. McGill University, Montréal (Québec)

Geography 183-301A: Geography of the Circumpolar North

Geography 183-316A: Political Geography

Both these courses have a strong toponymic component. In recent years, emphasis has been on the study of Inuit place names in northern Québec.

7. University of Ottawa, Ottawa (Ontario)

LIN 2503: Le Français de l'Ontario

A large component of the course deals with the formation and development of French toponymy over a period of 150 years when Ontario was part of Western New France.

8. York University, North York (Ontario)

LING 4040.03: Historical Linguistics

LING 2210.06: Social Aspects of Language

In both these courses, some emphasis is made on the origin and evolution of place names and personal names with particular attention to their linguistic and sociolinguistic features.

9. University of Manitoba, Winnipeg (Manitoba)

52.254: Advanced Ukrainian

52.456 History of the Ukrainian Language

52.705 Selected Topics in Slavic Philology

These three courses have an important onomastic component dealing in both place names and personal names.

10. University of Calgary, Calgary (Alberta)

GEOG 457: Historical Geography of North America

This course includes several lectures on place name geography in the western part of both Canada and the United States of America.

11. University of British Columbia, Vancouver (British Columbia)

French 556: French and French Canadian Onomastics

A seminar on the study of toponymy and anthroponymy with discussion of the multidisciplinary aspects of the field.

12. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby (British Columbia)

The Department of Geography at this university reports that questions about the origins and diffusion of place names do arise in the context of their cultural geography courses.