



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Experiential Learning Teaching Methods

### **Method:** Field Trips

**Description:** Field trips describe opportunities for incorporating outside experiences into a particular course. This may take the form of field trips to relevant locations, or it may be more project-based field work with students regularly visiting or working at one site as part of a course project. For example, a science course focused on botany may have a demonstration plot at a community garden that students visit regularly as a hands-on learning technique, or a geography course may visit with the City Planners to understand urbanization.

**Link to Experiential Learning:** Like service-learning, courses with field trips, are an effective means of breaking down the barriers between university and community. More so, students who participate in field trips experience bonding which can improve the level of participation and dialogue in the course through these shared experiences. Creating experiences for students to apply and reflect on ideas and theories is a useful method for allowing students to actively participate in and explore course material.

**Facilitator Notes:** Including site visits with a field work component into courses can be a particularly helpful way for those in the sciences to engage experiential learning. Moving lab-based work outside has benefits for interdisciplinary engagement and can provide a means of knowledge mobilization with the surrounding community. For example, testing water for contaminants using local water sources can provide scientific learning for students that also can contribute to policy conversations on social and environmental issues. Field trips are dependent on good planning and logistics. However, when things inevitably go wrong, use those opportunities to further learning and a sense of classroom cohesion.

### **Learn More:**

<https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/teaching-outside-the-classroom/#field>

<https://blogs.ubc.ca/shonaellis/1233-2/>