



IS 202  
CASE STUDIES IN ISLAND STUDIES  
Winter 2010  
Class Times: Mondays and Wednesdays 3.00 - 4.15  
(provisional)  
Classroom: TBA

Rick Schneider  
[rschneider@upei.ca](mailto:rschneider@upei.ca)

Institute of Island Studies  
Main Building  
902-566-0386

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will expose students to particular case studies involving research from a variety of perspectives that involve islands, islanders and islandness. The objective is to familiarize the students with the case study method of research and how the island setting facilitates an understanding of specific processes and dynamics, which then have applicability to other islands but also to the wider world.

A variety of case study material will be reviewed in the course. It is planned that examples would include:

- Introduction to “Island Concepts” and the Case Study method. Personally ‘designed’ islands: exploratory ideas regarding island characteristics - requirements, inclusions and exclusions, shape, size, mainland links, and so forth.
- Physical geographical processes behind island formation: volcanic islands (Iceland, Tristan da Cunha); island arcs/ chains (Hawaii, Aleutians); relative sea level rise/ land level fall (Dalmatians, Gulf of Bothnia); erosion and deposition processes (British Isles); coral atolls (Tuvalu); and guano deposits (Nauru)
- Surtsey Island – specific mode of formation and specific scientific value as a ‘new island’
- Galapagos Islands – the importance of the islands in Darwin’s research on endemic species
- Environmental degradation on Easter Island and the decline in Island culture
- Continental shelf/ mineral/ fishing rights of island nations and colonies such as St. Pierre & Miquelon, the Falklands and Rockall, with particular focus on the 200 nautical mile Economic Exclusive Zone
- Energy deficit, reliance on fishing and tourism, selective outmigration, transport limitations, and foreign aid dependence in the Cook Islands

- The impact of tourism and recreation on sand dunes, salt marshes and wilderness areas, with implications for national park management, conservation, and environmental sustainability on Prince Edward Island
- Transport links connecting islands with the mainland in locations such as the Confederation Bridge to PEI, Öresund Bridge between Denmark and Sweden, the Seikan Tunnel to Hokkaido, and the archipelago transport network in the Turku region of Finland, looking at the economic impacts of connections (trade, tourism, diffusion, transport nodes)
- The economic tax free status of Åland and the UK Channel Islands
- The impact of the internet on island economies – Tuvalu (“DotTV” domain name and relevance for Tuvalu’s sea defences and UN membership), Pitcairn and Fair Isle (reducing the “isolation” effect)

## **RESOURCES**

Recommended text: Baldacchino, G. (2007), *A World of Islands: An Island Studies Reader*. Charlottetown, P.E.I. : Institute of Island Studies

Details of additional resources and readings will be handed out and posted to Moodle. A reading list of supplementary material will also be available.

## **EVALUATION**

Attendance:	Weight
Participation in discussion/ group tasks	10%
Class presentation:	10%
Paper (linked to class presentation):	15%
Mid-term test:	15%
Final exam:	20%
	30%

## **FORMAT**

The course will use a lecture format, with open discussion being encouraged at regular intervals. Notes will need to be taken during the lectures. A variety of guest speakers will make presentations on their particular area of expertise. Students will also be expected to make a class presentation on a case study which they will research independently, and to submit a paper on this case study, which will be assessed.

## **ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and participate actively in all discussion exercises. Students unable to complete the class presentation assignments must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the date of the presentation. The same applies to the final exam. Arrangements will only be made on the basis of documented medical or compassionate reasons.