

Carleton University | Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
GEOG 1023 – Introduction to Cities and Urbanization | Fall 2019
Mondays, 11:30-1:30pm
Location: SC103 (Steacie Building)

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Webb
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“What strange phenomena we find in a great city, all we need do is stroll about with our eyes open. Life swarms with innocent monsters.” – Charles Baudelaire

Course Description: Cities highlight the best and worst of everything. They provide examples of remarkable innovations and movements that improve people’s lives, and deep structural inequalities that condemn millions to poverty. In this course, we look beyond the surface of cities and into the social and spatial relations between people, nature, buildings and power that make up our urban fabric. In doing so, we will learn to research and analyze cities in all their complexity from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. What I mean by this is that cities are not the sole concern of human geographers, but a range of social scientists with their own research agendas, tools and theories (from geographers and sociologists to musicologists and planners). We’ll begin the course with an introduction to doing urban research. We’ll look at some of the ways that scholars have approached the study of cities, from economic history and urban exploring to ethnography and mapping. The aim will be to understand the diversity of approaches to urban studies while focusing on the distinctive contributions of urban geographers. We’ll then move onto topics that highlight contemporary urban dynamics. For example, we’ll look at the impact of technology on so-called ‘smart cities.’ We’ll look at industrial decline in North America through hip hop, and how cities are often not built with women in mind. Ultimately, this course is aimed at developing your capacity to observe, describe and analyze cities and urban change. In order to do so successfully, you’ll need to equip yourselves with the knowledge, methods and tools used by the researchers we’ll cover in this class.

Course Objectives:

- Provide students with a general introduction to the field of urban geography including key concepts and debates.
- Expose students to multi-disciplinary approaches and methods used in the study of cities.
- Develop students’ capacity as urban researchers through readings, films, guest lectures and assignments.

Course Themes and Reading Schedule

Date	Theme	Readings
Week 1 September 9, 2019	Introduction to course syllabus and themes. **No tutorials in the first week**	
Week 2 September 16, 2019	Exploring the city, Studying the city: How to be an urbanist today.	Jonas, Andrew, Eugene McCann and Mary Thomas. (2015). <i>Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction</i> . Chapter 1: Approaching the City. Oxford: Wiley. P1-26. Garret, B. (2014). <i>Explore Everything: Place-Hacking the City</i> . Chapter 2: The Ruins of History. London: Verso. P 25-44. Video: Bradley Garret on Urban Exploring.
Week 3 September 23, 2019	Globalization and the City: Migration, Global Cities and Global Slums	Saunders, D. (2010). Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Shaping Our World. In <i>The City Reader</i> . Richard LeGates and Fredric Stout (Eds.). New York: Routledge. 677-686. Davis, M. (2006). Chapter 1: The Urban Climacteric. in <i>Planet of Slums</i> . New York: Verso. pp. 1-19.
Week 4 September 30, 2019 *Last day to withdraw from F/W classes with full fee adjustment.	Inequality and the City: Polarization, Segregation and Gentrification	Moskowitz, P.E. Introduction. In <i>How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality and the Fight for the Neighbourhood</i> . New York: Bold Type Books. 1-10. Saskia Sassen: Who owns our cities – and why this urban takeover should concern us all. Heron Gate Tenant Coalition: The Battle for Herongate. In Class Film: Not in my neighbourhood.
Week 5 October 7, 2019	Work and the City	Jonas, Andrew, Eugene McCann and Mary Thomas. <i>Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction</i> . Chapter 5: Labour and the City. Oxford: Wiley. P100-121. Vox: I was a fast food worker. Let me tell you about burnout.

		Guest speakers: Fight for \$15 Ottawa
October 14, 2019	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS, NO TUTORIALS	
October 21, 2019	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS, NO TUTORIALS	
Week 6 October 28, 2019	Urban Planning and Design	<p>Whyte, William H. (1988) The Design of Spaces. In <i>The City Reader</i>. Richard LeGates and Fredric Stout (Eds.). New York: Routledge., pp: 587-595.</p> <p>Project for Public Spaces. (2015). What is Placemaking? In <i>The City Reader</i>. Richard LeGates and Fredric Stout (Eds.). New York: Routledge., pp: 558-562.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Ottawa City Councillor Shawn Menard</p> <p>Optional: How public spaces make cities work, Amanda Burden TED Talk</p>
Week 7 November 4, 2019	Fear and the City: Policing, Racism and Urban Design	<p>Maynard, Robyn. (2017). Arrested (In)Justice: From the Streets to the Prison. in <i>Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present</i>. Halifax: Fernwood. 83-115.</p> <p>Davis, Mike. (1990). Fortress L.A. In <i>The City Reader</i>. Richard LeGates and Fredric Stout (Eds.). New York: Routledge. 212-217.</p> <p>In-Class Film: It Takes A Riot (2017)</p>
Week 8 November 11, 2019	Art and the City: New York City and the Birth of Hip Hop	<p>Read: Rose, Tricia (1994). A Style Nobody Can Deal With: Politics, Style and the Post-Industrial City in Hip Hop. in <i>Microphone Fiends: Youth Music and Youth Culture</i>. New York: Routledge. 71-88.</p> <p>Listen to: Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, The Message; Run DMC, It's Like That.</p>
Week 9 November 18, 2019	Sex and the City: Gender and Urban Space	<p>Valentine, G. (1989). The geography of women's fear. <i>Area</i>, 385-390.</p> <p>Foran, C. How to design a city for women?</p>
Week 10 November 25, 2019	Technology and the City: Data, Disruption and 'Smart Cities'	<p>The Baffler: A Mess on the Sidewalk, Inside the great digital mis-engineering of the Toronto waterfront.</p>

		<p>McGill Urban Politics and Governance Group: Short term rentals in Canada: The first comprehensive overview</p> <p>NYTimes: The Case for Dumb Cities.</p> <p>Guest speaker: David Wachsmuth (School of Urban Planning, McGill)</p>
<p>Week 11 December 2, 2019</p>	<p>Climate Change and the future of the city</p>	<p>CommonWealth: The Green New Deal City of 2030.</p> <p>Dawson, Ashley. (2019). Chapter 4: The Jargon of Resilience. In <i>Extreme Cities: The Peril and promise of urban life in the age of climate change</i>. London: Verso Books., pp: 153-187.</p>
<p>Week 12 December 6, 2019</p>	<p>Final Exam Review</p>	<p>*Note: This class will take place on a Friday, not the usual Monday.</p>

Student Evaluation Overview

The course evaluation includes two assignments, a film/guest speaker review, a tutorial participation/attendance grade, and a final exam. There is no midterm exam for this class. The final exam will take place during the final exam period after classes end.

Assignment/Exam	Percentage of Total Grade
Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	30%
Film/Guest Speaker Review	15%
Tutorial Participation/Attendance	10%
Final Exam	30%

Course Readings

Readings for this course will be available through Ares, Carleton's electronic course reserve system. There is no required textbook for this course. We will however, be using a number of readings from Jonas, Andrew, Eugene McCann and Mary Thomas. (2015). *Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley. The book is available through the library as an ebook, but if you want a hard copy it can be purchased for a reasonable price (~\$15) through online second-hand booksellers like AbeBooks, BookFinder or ThriftBooks. Some of the readings also come from Richard LeGates and Fredric Stout (2016). *The City Reader*. New York: Routledge. There are multiple copies of this book available in the library.

It is critical to do the readings before coming to class. Because this is a first-year course I have kept the readings short and accessible. If you are having trouble with concepts or ideas brought up in the readings, please talk to your TA or come and see me during my office hours. The final

exam will include material from the readings, lectures, films and guest lectures, so it is important to come to class prepared.

Please note that the readings listed above are subject to changes throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to check cuLearn to see if the readings have changed from the syllabus.

Lectures and Tutorials

The course consists of a two-hour weekly lecture, and a one-hour weekly tutorial. The tutorials are designed to provide students with the opportunities to discuss and debate the issues raised in lectures and in the readings. The tutorial is also a forum for students to learn about the assignment requirements and learn about correct referencing style. Attending tutorials is mandatory to the successful completion of this course.

This course syllabus, lecture slides, readings, assignment, useful links and course announcements will all be posted on cuLearn: <https://culearn.carleton.ca/>

I will post lecture slides shortly after each lecture. Please keep in mind that lecture slides provide only part of the material we will cover in this course. My lecture will cover material beyond the slides, so it is important to take notes on what I say rather than the content of the slides. In general, I use slides that contain only a few bullet points rather than copious amounts of information. If you miss a class, please get notes from a fellow student.

Because much of this course revolves around discussion and activities, it is imperative that students attend and participate in class AND tutorial sessions. Participation includes active involvement in small group activities and discussions. Participation is important and I expect it from all of you. Participation means not only offering thoughts on the subject matter but also thoughtful listening and a demonstration of respect for each other's views.

I often post interesting articles or threads related to the courses I teach on Twitter. For this I use a hashtag for the course, so in this case it will be #GEOG1023. This also acts as an archive for future students in the course. Please feel free to use the hashtag in your posts about urban issues.

Notes on Email Communication

Students are expected to use their Carleton email address or the email function on cuLearn for all communications regarding the course. It is important to include the course code in the subject line of the email to instructors. To ensure clear communication, please use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. Please also include your full name and student number in the email. Emails will generally be responded to within 2 business days. I respond to emails from students between 8:30 and 4:30 on weekdays.

Assignments

This course includes an experiential learning component, which involves conducting urban research. This course exposes you to a variety of approaches to the study of cities. In these

assignments, you'll draw from these to produce your own urban research. These assignments allow you to be creative and exploratory, but they are also aimed at demonstrating your understanding of key topics covered in this course. The aim is for you to develop a better understanding of Ottawa as a city, to immerse yourself in it, and to begin to analyze some of the urban dynamics shaping the city. It is intended to build your skills as urban researchers and to teach you data collection and analysis skills that will be useful in your career.

Assignment 1, Experience the city, describe the city: For this assignment, you are asked to explore, observe and describe a particular urban environment in Ottawa. You will produce a socio-spatial profile of the neighbourhood based on your field observations and drawing from a range of media and data sources. You can complete this assignment as a written paper incorporating photographs and other media, or you can create a short video of your explorations in the neighbourhood, which include descriptions of the neighbourhood based on your research. A more detailed explanation of the assignment will be provided.

Assignment 2: Research the city, analyze the city: For this assignment, you will analyze a major urban re/development project or urban issue in the city of Ottawa. You will be asked to analyze project documents, media reports and utilize academic sources. A more detailed explanation of the assignment and a list of topics will be provided.

Film/Guest Speaker Review: We will be watching a number of films and hearing from a number of guest speakers in this course. In order to reflect on these, you are asked to write a short reflection paper that incorporates readings assigned for the course. A more detailed explanation of this assignment will be provided.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized by subtracting 5% per day (including Saturday and Sunday) of the total value of the assignment. Students whose assignments are late because of a valid medical reason or family emergency will not be penalized, however, documentation from a family physician or counseling services will be required. Most assignments will be submitted online via cuLearn. Note that material handed-in via the departmental drop box will not be accepted, unless you make prior arrangements with the instructor or TA.

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information, see [Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to the Professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Religious obligation: write to the Professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send the Professor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Drop Date

The last day for academic withdrawal from Fall courses is September 30, 2019.

Need Assistance? Carleton has resources to help you succeed:

If you need assistance with...	Who can help?	Contact Information
...understanding academic rules and regulations ...choosing or changing your major ...finding a tutor ...academic planning guided by an Academic Advisor ...polishing study skills	Academic Advising Centre <i>"Helping students build a foundation for academic success by facilitating services that foster personal direction and academic competence"</i>	302 Tory Building 613-520-7850 http://students.carleton.ca No appointment necessary as all students are seen on a walk-in basis.
...developing a coherent pattern of courses in the major and consultation about opportunities for graduate and professional study	Undergraduate Program Advisors	Consult your departmental website
...a learning disability	Paul Menton Centre <i>"Integration, Individualization, Independence"</i>	500 University Centre 613-520-6608 http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/ Students can call or drop in to make an appointment
...developing writing skills	Writing Tutorial Service	4th Floor, Library 613-520-6632 https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/
...peer assisted tutoring for pre-identified, notoriously difficult courses	Peer Assisted Study Sessions "PASS workshops integrate how-to-learn (study skills) with what-to-learn (course content) in a fun, relaxed environment.	Centre for Student Academic Support https://carleton.ca/csas/pass
...polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only)	International Student Services Office	128 University Centre 613-520-6600 http://www1.carleton.ca/isso/
...Library and Research help; Learning Support and IT support	Staff at MacOdrum Library (reference services desk)	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 613-520-2735
...coping with stress or crisis	Office of Student Affairs or Health and Counseling Services	Either ext. 2573 or http://www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs