

Carleton University Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
GEOG 3009a Altered Geographies

Fridays 11:35-2:25
Dr. Paul B. Williams
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Office Hours: TBA

Whether we realize it or not, many of the challenges we have faced in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, have been geographical in nature. For many of us, this past year or so has altered our perceptions of space and place and what we might consider to be “normal” - the way we think or imagine home, the way we work, how we see our relationships with others and our place in the world, etc. In this course, we will explore: the notion of what we might call “normal geographies”: how our geographical imaginations have been shaped by events in the past and the present; how the pandemic has exposed or highlighted social inequities; and, finally, what might be the “new normal” geographies.

This course will explore many of these ideas with examples drawn from the past and the present. We will try to make geographical sense of what we have experienced on a local, national and global scale.

Deliverables

- 1) Visual commentaries (3 X 10 marks each) – these will form part of several of our classes – lecture and discussion – you will have a choice.
- 2) Think Piece (25 marks)
- 3) Take-home examination project (40 marks)
 - Creative product (20 marks) – to be discussed further next week.
 - Accompanying document/ write-up (20 marks)
- 4) Participation/ Contribution (5 marks)
 - Not solely attendance based – but based on contributions to the class discussions (including presentation of at least one photo commentary)

Course evaluation:

Visual Commentaries (30%)

You will each be required to provide **three brief visual commentaries for discussion.**

These commentaries will consist of an image or visual detail (photograph, artwork, graph, chart, map, etc.) that illustrates an aspect of the week's class discussion. You must also provide a quote from one of the readings associated with the topic. You will also provide a commentary (approx. **150- 200 words** for each photo) that explains what the image is attempting to show in terms of the topic of the week and what the image shows in terms of the chosen quote (derived from the readings), why you chose this image, and what details are important to recognize. **You must each do three commentaries (3 X 10%).** Moreover, **you each must be prepared to discuss at least one of your commentaries with the class.** The commentaries must be submitted to me no later than 5:00p.m. on the day before the class in which they are to be presented and I will decide which ones will be discussed.

Think Piece (25%):

You will be expected to do **ONE double-spaced 5-8-page think piece discussion paper/ think piece.** This will be worth **25%** of your final grade. In this, you will expand upon the discussion in one of your photo-commentaries, using further examples and material from the readings and lectures. This *think piece* is intended to provide your own more in-depth analysis of one of the topics being discussed. **In your analysis, you will be required to use material from the readings, films, discussions and lectures.** You are also encouraged to bring your own experiences, knowledge and ideas to the discussion. All papers must be properly referenced using APA style citations. Your one think piece will be **due on the last day of classes.**

Final Take-home "examination" project (40%):

Finally, there will be a **take-home "examination" project** to be distributed before the end of classes. You will have until the last day of the exam period to submit this project. There will be **no extensions** allowed without proper documentation. This project will be **worth 40 percent of the final grade.** The nature of this project will be discussed in class.

Photo commentaries (3 X 10) 30%
Think Piece 25
Take home examination 40%
Participation 5%

NOTE: Assignments will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. The evaluation will take into account the content in relation to the purpose of the assignment, as well as the quality of written expression and the overall presentation. Please include a title, your name and student number, the course number and instructor's name, and the date on all of your written assignments at the top of the first page. Please also retain an additional hard copy for your records.

Course Format

The classes are scheduled for 3 hours - lecture-based - however, given the circumstances in which we find ourselves – masked (including me), small class, etc., we will treat this more like a hybrid lecture/ seminar with short lecture segments, discussions and breaks:

- Lectures will be broken up into short, self-contained units related to different ideas, case studies, examples within the overall subject matter of the class [this is also done to facilitate any possibility of the course being moved online!]
- There will be multiple breaks (preferably outside if possible and if allowed)
- Presentation of concepts and ideas (me)
- Student commentaries (weekly) NOTE Classes will be built around your photo commentaries and discussion
- Class discussions (often)
- Videos (often)

Late or deferred submissions:

A late submission of a written commentary or the photographic essay without prior permission will result in a penalty equivalent to 10 percent per day after the designated due date. Students who are unable to complete assignments on time because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may request an extension within five days after the deadline with me. Permission will only be granted if the request is supported by a medical certificate or other supporting documentation. Conflicts arising due to religious obligations should be indicated in advance, but do not require verification. Late assignments can be submitted to me directly during office hours or put in or in the mail drop box of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, near the main office, on the third floor of the Loeb building.

Academic accommodations:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website
<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>.

Religious obligation: write to me 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website
<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), 5

psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>.

COVID Protocols

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#). All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca. Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

Academic dishonesty:

Students are reminded of the seriousness with which Carleton University treats academic dishonesty of any form, including plagiarism. Students should be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy (see <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>). For more information on plagiarism, its consequences and how to avoid committing plagiarism, see the MacOdrum Library web site on the topic: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdoin/plagiarism.html>