

# COURSE OUTLINE: CITIES IN A GLOBAL WORLD (GEOG 3023)

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Winter 2018



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**Lectures:** Wednesdays, 8:35 am to 11:25 am, Southam Hall 317

## COURSE OVERVIEW

Urbanization is a global phenomenon, but also a dynamic and uneven process. This course focuses on global-local connections in thinking about the range of political, economic and social factors that shape urbanization processes. The course examines urbanization in relation to a range of important contemporary urban themes and issues, such as: gentrification and displacement, shrinking cities and austerity, the right to the city, city-branding and mega-projects, the production and regulation of urban space, informality and the struggle for livelihoods. Course materials include several case studies in different cities and regions.

**Prerequisite:** GEOG 2200 or GEOG 2400, or third-year standing, or permission of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To examine the relational and contingent nature of urbanization processes in different contexts.
- To explore the interconnected social and spatial dimensions of urbanization.
- To strengthen critical reading, thinking, and writing skills.

## CLASS FORMAT

The course meets once weekly and consists of a 3-hour time slot. Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, guest speakers, and debates and draw upon case studies, maps, photos and documentaries.

## CULEARN

A cuLearn site containing the course outline, an electronic link to the required readings (ARES), lecture slides, assignment instructions and the course blog can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/culearn/>. The lecture slides provide a *partial* summary of the material presented in class and should *not* be considered a replacement for attending class and taking careful notes. Your confidential grades will be posted on cuLearn as available. Please check your posted grades and notify the instructor of any inaccuracies.

## LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

Readings, lectures, class discussions, case studies, guest speakers, audio-visual materials and assignments are designed to complement and reinforce each other in meeting the course's learning objectives. Required readings establish the overall theme for each class, introducing key concepts, issues and arguments. Class lectures expand upon the readings, clarify key terms or issues, and provide additional background material. The written assignments provide the opportunity to deepen understanding of issues and concepts. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings in an informed manner.

## COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

### Reading Discussant and Blog Post (5%)

Students are asked to sign-up as a "discussant" of the required readings for a given week during the term. Discussants will be called upon in class to respond to questions posed by the instructor about the readings. This will be done in an informal manner and no formal presentation is required. **Discussants should write a 2-3 sentence blog post related to *one* of the weekly readings for their week.** This post can: highlight a key issue, concept or question raised by the reading; and/or offer a critical observation; and/or comment on how the reading contributes to understanding some aspect of "cities in a global world." Blog posts should be uploaded to the "cities blog" in cuLearn the *day before class*. A sign-up sheet for this activity will be circulated in week 1 and then posted on cuLearn. The dates on the sign-up sheet should be treated as *firm* deadlines; evidence of a legitimate reason (e.g. illness or bereavement) is required to change the date selected to serve as a discussant. Students who fail to sign-up or show-up as a discussant will receive a zero for this assignment.

### Written Assignments (35%)

Detailed instructions for each assignment will be distributed in class and posted on cuLearn.

#### *Assignment No. 1 (15%)*

Assignment instructions will be distributed and discussed in class on January 17, 2018 and the assignment is due at the beginning of class on February 7, 2018.

#### *Assignment No. 2 (20%)*

Assignment instructions will be distributed in class on February 28, 2018 and the assignment is due at the *beginning* of class on April 4, 2018.

Written assignments are due at the *beginning* of class on the indicated due dates. Assignments handed in after class will be considered late. Late penalties will be enforced to ensure fairness in grading among students. Late assignments will be subject to a reduction of the overall assignment mark at the rate of 10% for each calendar day past the due date, unless accompanied by *adequate* written documentation for a *legitimate* reason. Written assignments handed in after class but before 11:59 pm on the indicated due date will receive a 5% deduction in the overall assignment grade.

Assignment extensions will be considered *only* for *documented* illnesses or *immediate* family emergencies. *Late* assignments must be uploaded as a Word or pdf file to cuLearn. Do *not* use the drop box for late assignments.

For assignment no. 1, please note that late assignments will *not* be accepted more than one week past the due date (e.g. after the *beginning* of the following class) and the uploading function on cuLearn will be programmed accordingly. For assignment no. 2, students should take note that **April 11, 2018** is the last day to submit written work in the winter term, as per regulations in Carleton University's 2017-2018 Academic Calendar.

All assignments must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. This includes the discussant blog post. Written assignments must be typed using 11 or 12-point font and 1.5-line spacing, contain appropriate academic referencing, and adhere to the assignment instructions distributed in class and posted on cuLearn. Students are asked to retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of submitted assignments in the event of loss. Plagiarism will be monitored and treated as an instructional offence in accordance with university policy (see below). Requests for a review of an assigned grade must take place in written form (e.g. by email) *within* 7 days of the grade being posted on cuLearn.

### **Exams (50%)**

The mid-term exam (25%) and final exam (25%) will be comprised of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, short and long answer questions related to key concepts, issues, themes, relationships, and processes covered in class lectures, readings, films and class discussions. The two-hour mid-term exam will focus on course material covered between weeks 1 and 5. The two-hour final exam will focus on the entire course. There will be *no make-up exam* for a missed mid-term. If a student misses the mid-term exam because of a *documented* illness or family emergency, the final exam will be reweighted to count for 50% percent of the final grade. If documentation for a missed mid-term exam is insufficient, a grade of zero will be assigned.

The *only* acceptable absences from the mid-term exam are *documented* medical or *immediate family* emergencies. For absences from the mid-term related to medical reasons, students will need to provide a doctor's note that clearly excuses them *on the day of the exam* (e.g. a note saying that a student was ill before the exam is not sufficient). The note should be written on the official letterhead of the physician and it should be delivered to the instructor *within five days* of the missed examination. The note should include the name and telephone number of the physician so that details can be verified. As family emergencies vary more in nature, please contact the instructor during the week following the missed mid-term to discuss the process for obtaining the necessary written documentation.

### **Class Participation (10%)**

Students should come to class prepared to participate in class discussions in an informed manner based on their familiarity with the weekly readings. Students are encouraged to think about the following questions as they complete the weekly readings: (1) what important urban issues do the articles raise? (2) why are these important? (3) how do the articles contribute to understanding "cities in a global world"? Class participation will be evaluated by the instructor based on attendance (5%) and overall contribution to class discussions (5%) during the entire semester. Class participation therefore involves completing the readings before class, attending class, and contributing to class discussions. An attendance sheet will be circulated at the end of the class for weeks 2 through 12.

### **The Incentive Program (up to 3% bonus)**

This course has been registered in the Incentive Program offered through the Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS). CSAS Skill Development Workshops are designed to help students cultivate

and refine their academic skills for a university environment. To earn a bonus of up to 3% on your final grade, students should attend 3 workshops throughout the term (e.g. 1% bonus mark for each workshop attended). **In particular, students are encouraged to attend workshops designed to improve writing and critical thinking skills.** Skill Development Workshops for the Winter 2018 term will be available starting January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and must be completed by April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to receive credit for the Incentive Program. To see the complete Skill Development Workshop schedule, please visit mySuccess via Carleton Central. You can also view your CSAS Skill Development Workshop attendance history at any time by logging into mySuccess. In addition to the CSAS Skill Development Workshops hosted on campus, CSAS offers several online workshops. If you are interested in participating in an online workshop, you can enroll through the CSAS website: [carleton.ca/csas](http://carleton.ca/csas). Please review the Incentive Program participation policies. You can find more information about these policies here: [carleton.ca/csas/incentive-program/](http://carleton.ca/csas/incentive-program/). For further questions, please contact the Centre for Student Academic Support at [csas@carleton.ca](mailto:csas@carleton.ca) or 613-520-3822.

### MARK DISTRIBUTION

Please note the mark distribution and important dates for assignments and exams, as outlined below.

Mark Component	Important Dates	% of final grade
Discussant & blog post	As per sign-up sheet posted on cuLearn	5%
Assignment no. 1	Due at the <i>beginning</i> of class on February 7, 2018	15%
Assignment no. 2	Due at the <i>beginning</i> of class on April 4, 2018	20%
Mid-term exam	February 14, 2018 (in-class)	25%
Final exam	During the formal exam period (April 14-26, 2018)	25%
Class participation	Based on entire term	10%

### COURSE SCHEDULE

*Week 1: January 10 - Course Introduction*

*Week 2: January 17 - Urbanization in a Globalizing World*

*Week 3: January 24 - Urban Governance and Urban Change*

*Week 4: January 31 - Urbanization and Everyday Struggles for Livelihoods*

*Week 5: February 7 - The Right to the City: Whose City? What Rights?*

*Week 6: February 14 - Mid-term Exam*

*Week 7: February 28 - Creative Cities? The Case of Toronto*

*Week 8: March 7 - Shrinking Cities and Austerity: A Closer Look at Detroit*

*Week 9: March 14 - Competing Visions for Urban Renewal in Mumbai*

*Week 10: March 21 - Spatial Regulation and Control in Mexico City*

*Week 11: March 28 - City-branding and the Olympics in Beijing*

*Week 12: April 4 - Course Summary*

### COMMUNICATIONS, LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES

Students should use their Carleton email account for all course-related correspondence, placing “GEOG 3023” in the subject heading. Please note that I may not respond to emails over the weekend. Email is an acceptable medium for responding to simple inquiries (e.g. “I cannot attend your regular office hours, so I would like to book an appointment on Wednesday instead. Are you available in the afternoon?”), but not complex questions (e.g. “I was ill for class. What did I miss?”). If your question cannot be answered in a sentence or two, please come to the instructor’s office hours or make an appointment to do so. The

use of laptops in class for note-taking is welcomed. Students should *not* use their laptops to check email, Facebook or to engage in other non-course related activities. Students should mute or turn their cell phones off during the class and refrain from texting.

### **GRADES**

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

DEF = Deferred final exam or term work; GNA = grade not available; WDN = withdrawn from the course. Note that the instructor may adjust course grades at the end of the term to approximate a bell-shaped distribution for the class. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **DROP DATE**

Please check the CU Calendar for the last day in the term to withdraw from a course with full fee adjustment.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL AND CONDUCT OFFENCES**

Carleton University has clear and firm policies regarding instructional and conduct offences. Instructional offences include among other activities cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in 2 or more courses without prior permission, and disrupting classes. Conduct offences apply in areas of discrimination and sexual harassment. Further information about University regulations which define and regulate these offences is presented in the Undergraduate Calendar: [CU Calendar](#). Plagiarism is one kind of instructional offence. 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 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.

University regulations stipulate that allegations of plagiarism, cheating or any violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved by the course's instructor. University procedures do *not* permit an instructor to discuss allegations of plagiarism with a student. If the instructor suspects that a student has submitted plagiarized work, the submitted assignment is forwarded to the Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. If it is agreed that an instructional offence may have been committed, the case is forwarded to the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Affairs) of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) who conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, before deciding what, if any, penalties are warranted. For more information and guidance, please refer to:  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

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 requests for academic accommodation during the first 2 weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For details see the Student Guide.

*Religious obligation:* write to me with requests for academic accommodation during the first 2 weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For details see the Student Guide.

*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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me 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). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Knowledge of the *finalized* syllabus and the cuLearn course site is the responsibility of each student.
- Audio or video recording of lectures is *not* permitted without the permission of the instructor.
- Learning materials created for this course (presentations, posted lectures, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author/instructor. They may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author/instructor.