

GEOG 3023: CITIES IN A GLOBAL WORLD (2025W)
Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University
[Draft, December 2024. See Brightspace for full course outline]



Instructor: Dr. Jill Wigle
Classes: Thursdays, 11:35 am to 2:25 pm
Brightspace: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/284488>
Tutorial Assistant: Arianna Fuke

Course Description

Urbanization is a global phenomenon, but also an uneven and contested process. This course explores the social and spatial contours of urbanization in global context. Our exploration traces how urbanization processes are influenced by the transnational mobilities of capital, people, and policies, but we also ground our analysis in specific cities, urban governance, and everyday life. We use the crisis of affordable housing as a comparative lens to think about differences and similarities across cities. Course materials cover a range of cities as well as a more detailed focus on Barcelona, Detroit, Mexico City, Mumbai, and Ottawa.

Prerequisite: GEOG 2023 and third year standing, or permission of the Department.

Learning Outcomes

This course provides students with opportunities to: (1) learn about different ways of approaching cities and urbanization in global context; (2) develop a multi-scalar understanding of processes connecting and affecting cities; (3) explore the intersections between housing, everyday life, and precarity; and (4) strengthen critical reading, thinking, and writing skills.

Course Approach

This course meets in-person once weekly for three hours. Classes combine lectures, discussions, audio-visual materials, virtual travel, and other in-class activities. Readings, lectures, class discussions, assignments, and the exams are designed to complement each other in meeting the course’s learning outcomes. The required readings establish the overall theme for each class and introduce key concepts and issues. Class lectures and discussions expand upon the readings and provide additional context and perspectives. The written assignment allows for deeper analysis of course readings and themes. The exams provide an opportunity for students to show their understanding of course materials. Class attendance and engagement are a vital part of both learning and evaluation in this course.

Course Communications

Please use your Carleton email account for all course correspondence, placing “GEOG 3023” in the subject heading. Email is an acceptable medium for responding to simple inquiries (“Could you please ask the library to fix the ARES link to the reading?”) but is not designed for dealing with complex questions (“I was absent from class. What did I miss?”). If your question cannot be answered in a sentence or two, please email me to make an appointment. Students should *not* expect an email reply during the evenings or on weekends, so please plan accordingly.

Laptops and Cell Phones

Students are asked to put away their cell phones during class and to use laptops *only* for taking class notes. We will also use laptops for virtual travel during the term.

Course Materials and Brightspace

Course readings are available through the ARES link on our Brightspace site. The course outline, schedule of reading discussants, written assignment instructions, lecture slides, and audio-visual materials used in class will be posted on Brightspace during the term. Lecture slides provide a *partial* summary of class content and are *not* an adequate replacement for attending class. Students’ confidential grades will also be posted on Brightspace.

Course Evaluation

Component	Key dates/info	% of grade
Reading discussant	As per sign-up sheet on Brightspace	10%
Class participation	Attendance & engagement	15%
Mid-term exam	In-person at the February 13 th class	20%
Written assignment	Due by 23:59 on March 28	25%
Final exam	In-person during the formal exam period (April 11-26)	30%

Reading Discussant (10%)

Students will take turns as “reading discussants” for a given week during the term. A sign-up sheet for this activity will be circulated in the first week of class and posted on Brightspace. The sign-up sheet outlines the question prompts for discussants. No formal presentation is required. The dates on the sign-up sheet should be treated as any other due date. More details will be provided in class.

Class Participation (15%)

Class participation involves coming to class prepared to discuss the weekly readings as well as engaging in discussions and other in-class activities in a collegial and respectful manner. Your class participation mark will reflect both your attendance (1/3) and engagement (2/3). Attendance will be taken starting in week 2 and engagement will be qualitatively assessed by the professor based on your overall contributions during the entire term. If you miss a class because of an extenuating circumstance beyond your control (e.g. illness), email the professor *before* class.

Mid-term Exam (20%)

The two-hour mid-term exam will be written in-class on February 13. The mid-term exam will include short and long answer questions focusing on class readings, lectures and discussions between weeks 1 and 5. There is *no* make-up exam for a missed mid-term exam. Students who miss the mid-term for an extenuating circumstance beyond their control (e.g. illness) should complete the *Self-Declaration for Academic Considerations* form and submit it to the professor within 3 days of the mid-term. These students will have their final exam re-weighted to count for 50% of their overall mark. Students who fail to follow this policy will receive a grade of zero on the mid-term. More details will be provided in class during the term. Attending class will *greatly* assist with your preparation for the mid-term.

Written Assignment (25%)

There is one major written assignment for this course. Your written assignment must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. Plagiarism will be monitored and treated as an instructional offence in accordance with university policy. Assignments must adhere to proper spelling, grammar, the consistent use of academic referencing, and the guidelines posted on Brightspace. Assignments that do not have any citations from the required readings will be returned ungraded and students will be asked to resubmit a revised assignment to avoid a grade of zero. Please retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of submitted work. The guidelines for the written assignment will be distributed and discussed in class on February 27. The assignment is due via Brightspace by 23:59 on **March 28**. For late policies, see below.

Final Exam (30%)

The three-hour final exam will be an in-person exam scheduled during the formal exam period (April 11-26, 2025). The final exam will consist of multiple choice and long answer questions. It will cover the required readings, class lectures and discussions, and audio-visual materials related to the *entire* term. More details will be provided in class during the term. Attending class will *greatly* assist with your preparation for the final exam.

Prohibitions on the Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT) for the creation or submission of any graded work is prohibited in this course, including oral and written assignments.

The Incentive Program (up to 3% bonus mark)

This course has been registered in the Incentive Program offered through the Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS). The Incentive Program is fully online. CSAS Learning and Writing Support Workshops are designed to help students refine their academic skills for a university environment. In this course, students can earn a bonus mark of up to 3% added to their overall grade by attending up to three of the approved workshops (1%/workshop to a maximum of 3). Only workshops completed *before* 23:59 on **March 20** are eligible for bonus marks. The following workshops are approved for bonus marks in this course: (1) Academic Integrity, (2) Academic Reading, (3) Critical Thinking, (4) Editing and Proofreading, (5) Introduction to Fundamentals of Academic Writing, and (6) Writing for Academic Purposes. Students are encouraged to take one or more of the writing-related workshops.

For students' attendance to be captured, you must complete all workshop components and achieve 100% on the final assessment. Once students achieve 100% on the final assessment, they will receive a Record of Completion Award from Brightspace. Students will need to download the Record of Completion PDF for each applicable workshop and submit them to the submission box designated for this activity on Brightspace. For more information about workshop attendance and submitting the Records of Completion, please visit the Incentive Program Policies page on the CSAS website.

To view the complete list of the workshops and their descriptions, please visit the Learning and Writing Support Workshops page on the CSAS website. Please note that CSAS in-person workshops are not eligible for the Incentive Program. To access the online workshops, please self-enrol on the CSAS Online Resources page. For further information, please visit the Incentive Program FAQs page. For additional questions, please contact the Centre for Student Academic Support at csas@carleton.ca.

Course Themes and Schedule

Week 1: Cities and Urbanization in Global Context (Jan 9)

Week 2: Global and Comparative Urbanisms (Jan 16)

Week 3: Transnational Mobilities and Places (Jan 23)

Week 4: Urban Governance and the Politics of Space (Jan 30)

Week 5: Housing Insecurity and Financialization (Feb 6)

Week 6: Mid-term Exam (Feb 13)

Week 7: Platform Urbanism and Protest in Barcelona (Feb 27)

Week 8: Housing and Neighbourhood Change in Ottawa (Mar 6)

Week 9: Spatial Justice in Detroit (Mar 13)

Week 10: City-making from Below in Mexico City (Mar 20)

Week 11: Global Visions for Renewal in Mumbai (Mar 27)

Week 12: Course and Exam Review (Apr 3)

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	F = < 50
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56	
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52	

ABS = student absent from the final exam; DEF = Deferred; FND = failed, not deferred; GNA = grade not available; WDN = withdrawn from the course. 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 professor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Late Assignments and Deferred Exams

Assignments turned in late without an approved accommodation will be subject to a reduction of the overall mark at the rate of 5% for each calendar day past the due date. Assignment extensions will be considered for extenuating circumstances beyond your control (e.g. illness). In such cases, contact the professor to discuss possible accommodations *before* an assignment is due and complete the *Self-Declaration for Academic Considerations* form. This form must also be used if you miss the mid-term exam for an extenuating circumstance beyond your control (e.g. illness) and would like your final exam reweighted. For details on the proper use of this form and policy, students should consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) and read about the procedure for requesting academic accommodations. If you are unable to attend the final exam because of extenuating circumstances beyond your control, only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honoured (see <https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/>).

Drop date

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

Copyright and Intellectual Property

All slides, assignments, exams, and other course materials created by the professor for this course are the intellectual property of the professor. Students are *not* permitted to reproduce or distribute any of the course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without the express written consent from the copyright holder(s). Audio or video recording of lectures is *not* permitted without the permission of the professor. Students are to refrain from recording, copying, or re-posting course materials or class sessions. A student who publicly posts or sells a professor's work, without the professor's express consent, may be charged with misconduct under Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy and/or Code of Conduct, and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy. This policy is available here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, research results, diagrams, material on the internet and/or conversations. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT).
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment.
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement.
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

Academic Standing and Conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar. This document can be accessed online at: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/>.

Academic Accommodations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Statement on Student Mental Health

As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a link that may be helpful: <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>.