

GEOG 3209: SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH [0.5 CR]

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University

Abbreviated course outline (see Brightspace for complete version)



Instructor: Dr. Jill Wigle
Class: Thursdays, 11:35 to 14:25
Brightspace: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/222147>
Office hours: By appointment
TAs: Kaleigh McIntosh and Jessica Macvicar-Roberge

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores socio-environmental struggles in the global south with a regional focus on Latin America. In the first part of the course, we explore various approaches and concepts for analyzing socio-environmental issues. We then apply these to an extended case study of socio-environmental conditions and contestations in Mexico City. During the course, we delve into the control of land and resources, socio-territorial transformations, uneven exposure to environmental hazards, forms of resistance, and alternative strategies and futures.

Prerequisites: Third-year standing and ENST 2000 or ENST 2001 or GEOG 2200 or GEOG 2300, or permission of the Department.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course aims to provide students with opportunities to: (1) learn about different approaches to studying socio-environmental struggles; (2) develop a multi-scalar understanding of socio-environmental complexities in a specific region and city in the global south; (3) gain an appreciation of the geographic and historical dimensions of socio-environmental issues in contemporary Mexico City; and (4) strengthen critical reading, thinking, and writing skills.

APPROACH

This course meets in-person once weekly for three hours. Classes combine lectures, discussions, audio-visual materials, and other in-class learning activities. Readings, lectures, classes, assignments, and the final exam are designed to complement each other in meeting the learning outcomes. The required readings establish the overall theme for each class and introduce concepts and issues. Class lectures and discussions expand upon the readings and provide additional context. The written assignments allow for further exploration and analysis of course themes. The final exam focuses on student understanding of course materials. Class attendance and engagement are a vital part of course learning and evaluation.

COURSE MATERIALS AND BRIGHTSPACE

Course readings are available through the ARES link on our course Brightspace site. The course outline, the schedule of reading discussants, 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, as available.

COURSE EVALUATION

Component	Key dates/info	% of overall grade
Reading discussant	As per sign-up sheet on Brightspace	5%
Class participation	Attendance and engagement	20%
Assignment no. 1	Due by 23:59 on February 16 via BS	20%
Assignment no. 2	Due by 23:59 on March 29 via BS	20%
Final exam	During the formal exam period (April 13-25)	35%

Reading Discussant (5%)

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 guiding questions 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 (20%)

Class attendance and engagement are essential elements in this course. We will take attendance in class through the term, except for weeks 1 and 12. Class engagement involves coming to class prepared to discuss the weekly readings and to participate in discussions and other in-class activities. It also involves listening attentively and respectfully to others in class. In completing the weekly readings, students will

find it helpful to refer to the guiding questions for reading discussants (see above). Your overall class participation mark will reflect: (1) attendance (10%) – the number of classes attended and (2) engagement (10%) – evaluated by the professor based on the quality of a student's overall contribution to class during the entire term. If you miss a class because of an illness or other extenuating circumstances beyond your control, email me with an explanation *before* class.

Written assignments (40%)

There are two written assignments for this course. All written assignments must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. All written assignments should adhere to proper spelling, grammar, the consistent use of academic referencing (<https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/citing-your-sources>) as well as the assignment guidelines posted on Brightspace. Please retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of submitted work. Requests for a review of an assigned grade for a written assignment should take place by email *within* 7 days of the grade being posted on Brightspace. For details on late policies, refer to the appropriate section below. More details will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace during the term.

Final Exam (35%)

The three-hour final exam will be an online exam administered via Brightspace and scheduled during the formal exam period (April 13-25, 2024). The exam will consist of multiple choice and long answer questions. It will cover the required readings, class lectures and discussions, assignments, and audio-visual materials related to the *entire* term. Attending class will *greatly* assist with preparation for the final exam. The final exam must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. More details will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace during the term.

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 cultivate and 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 28 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) Introduction to Fundamentals of Academic Writing, (5) Introduction to Starting Academic Papers, and (6) Writing for Academic Purposes. Students are strongly encouraged to take one or more of the writing-related workshops. Note: students also enrolled in GEOG 3023 cannot double-count CSAS workshops, so plan your courses accordingly.

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 TOPICS/SCHEDULE

For more details, see course outline posted on Brightspace.

Week 1 (Jan 11) – Course Introduction
Week 2 (Jan 18) – Political versus Apolitical Ecologies
Week 3 (Jan 25) – Socio-environmental struggles in Latin America I
Week 4 (Feb 1) – Socio-environmental struggles in Latin America II
Week 5 (Feb 8) – Socio-environmental struggles in Latin America III
Week 6 (Feb 15) – Tenochtitlan-Mexico City
Week 7 (Feb 29) – H²O MX (2014)
Week 8 (Mar 7) – Socio-territorial Transformations
Week 9 (Mar 14) – Water
Week 10 (Mar 21) – Infrastructures
Week 11 (Mar 28) – Informalities
Week 12 (Apr 4) – Course Review

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.

PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT) for the creation or submission of graded work is prohibited in this course.

LATE AND DEFERRED ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS OR GRADES

In the interest of fairness to all students, any assignment turned in late without an extension 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 me to discuss possible accommodations and complete *the Self-Declaration for Academic Considerations form*. 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 consideration found here: <https://carleton.ca/fpa/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Consideration-Procedures-for-Students.pdf>.

If you are unable to submit assignment(s) before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances beyond your control, only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honoured. If you are unable to make the final exam due to circumstances beyond your control, only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honoured. The Office of the Registrar can be found here: <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.

ACADEMIC STANDING AND CONDUCT

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/current/>.

INSTRUCTIONAL AND CONDUCT OFFENCES

Instructional offences include (among other activities): cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in two 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: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/>.

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, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, artworks, 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 through the use of 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. The key to avoiding plagiarism is to learn how to do research and how to cite sources properly. The following web site provides advice: www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

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

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: students must contact the instructor(s) as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline for course deliverables. If you require accommodation for missing a course deliverable or deadline for *extenuating circumstances* beyond your control (e.g. illness), please complete *the Self-Declaration for Academic Considerations form*. For more details, see the relevant section on late policies above.

Pregnancy and family-status related accommodation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first few weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details about the accommodation policy, visit the Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) website.

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 [click here](#).

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, please request your accommodations for this course through the Ventus Student Portal 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. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the University Academic Calendars. 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).

Survivors of sexual violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

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 list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources

Mental Health & Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

Distress Centre of Ottawa & Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Other Carleton Resources for Students

All student support services at Carleton: <https://students.carleton.ca>

Indigenous Gathering Site: <https://carleton.ca/indigenous/>

International Student Services Office: <http://www.carleton.ca/isso>

Student Experience Office: <http://www.carleton.ca/seo/>