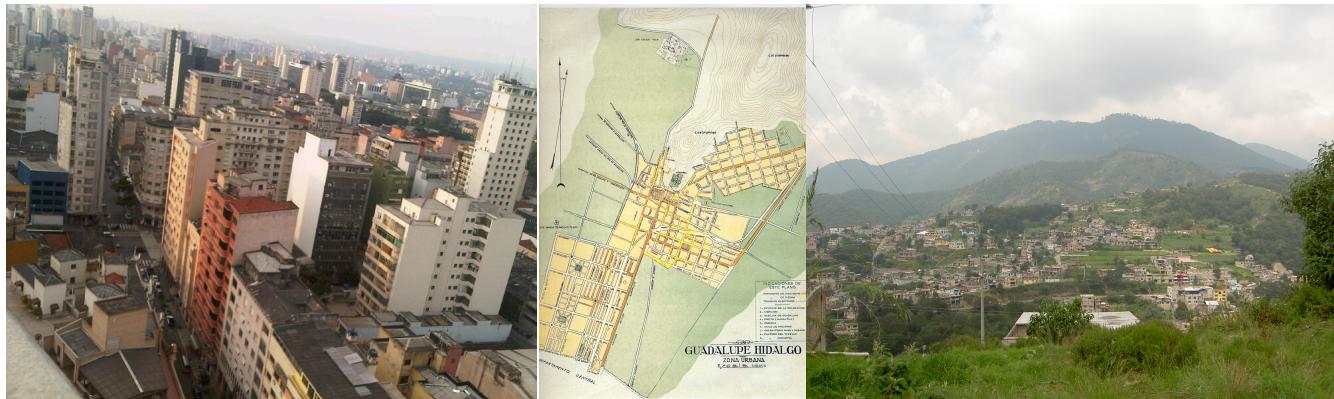


# APPROACHES TO GEOGRAPHICAL INQUIRY (GEOG 5000)

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Fall 2019



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<b>Office:</b>	Loeb B353
<b>Office hours:</b>	Tuesdays, 15:00 to 16:30, or by appointment
<b>Contact details:</b>	(613) 520-2600 extension 8552 or <a href="mailto:Jill.Wigle@carleton.ca">Jill.Wigle@carleton.ca</a>
<b>Lectures:</b>	Tuesdays, 11:35 to 14:25, Loeb A410
<b>cuLearn site:</b>	<a href="https://culearn.carleton.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=133548">https://culearn.carleton.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=133548</a>

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

A review of the major philosophical perspectives shaping research and explanation by geographers. Particular attention is paid to interpretations of social structure and human action, the nature of the biophysical universe, and the interaction between human beings and their environments.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course reviews major perspectives, approaches and debates shaping research and explanation by geographers and other scholars concerned with significant geographical concepts (e.g. place, space, scale) and themes (e.g. socio-ecological relations, unjust geographies, identity and place). Graduate students in various disciplines may find the course useful for their research projects.

**Prerequisite:** Graduate student standing, or permission of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Open to graduate students from all disciplines.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To examine significant theories, concepts and debates in human geography.
- To enable students to situate their research in relation to different approaches to geographic inquiry.
- To support the elaboration and refinement of student research interests and projects.

## CLASS FORMAT

The course meets once weekly for a 3-hour seminar. As a graduate seminar, students are expected to participate in class discussions in an active and informed manner. Weekly seminars will revolve around student presentations and discussion of assigned readings.

## **REQUIRED TEXT AND READINGS**

The textbook and additional readings have been chosen to: provide a general overview of significant approaches in human geography; represent new or enduring works in particular areas of geographic research; offer illustrations of different approaches to geographic inquiry; and to present more in-depth insights on important themes and debates. The required text for this course is: Aitken, Stuart and Gill Valentine (editors). 2015. *Approaches to Human Geography: Philosophies, Theories, People and Practices* (Second Edition). London: Sage. The textbook is available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca Street, 613-730-9888) or through course reserves at the library. Other required readings are available through the ARES. Readings can also be found through the library's e-journals at: <http://www.library.carleton.ca>.

## **COMMUNICATION AND CULEARN**

The course's cuLearn site will be used to post the syllabus, information on assignments, the sign-up sheet for reading discussants and commentaries, and (confidential) grades. An ARES link to the required readings will also be posted in cuLearn. Students should use their Carleton email account for email correspondence with the instructor.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

- Academic Biography and Presentation (10% of final grade)
- Overall Class Participation (10% of final grade)
- Reading Commentaries and Presentations (45% of final grade)
  - Reading commentaries (3 written commentaries x 10% each = 30%)
  - Reading discussant (2 oral presentations x 7.5% each = 15%)
- Review Essay and Presentation (35% of final grade)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

Please note that lecture topics and required readings are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. [Students enrolled in the course will find the complete list of readings on cuLearn].

### ***Week 1: September 10***

#### **Approaching human geography**

### ***Week 2: September 17***

#### **Positivist geography, spatial science and beyond**

### ***Week 3: September 24***

#### **Humanist geographies, then and now**

### ***Week 4: October 1***

#### **Feminist geographies**

### ***Week 5: October 8***

#### **Marxist geographic perspectives**

### ***Week 6: October 15***

#### **Post-structuralism and geographic inquiry**

**Week 7: October 29**

**Colonialism, postcolonialism and geography**

\* There is no class on October 22 because of the Fall Reading Week.

**Week 8: November 5**

**Socio-spatial relations**

**Week 9: November 12**

**Unjust geographies**

**Week 10: November 19**

**Socio-ecological relations**

**Week 11: November 26**

**Nature, mapping and calculation**

**Week 12: December 3**

**Summary and class presentations**

**SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments must be typed, submitted as a paper copy and adhere to the guidelines for written assignments discussed in class and/or posted on cuLearn. Students are asked to retain a hard copy (with electronic backup) of all assignments in the event of loss. All assignments must represent individual work completed on an independent basis. A penalty of *two grade points per calendar day* will be applied to late assignments, unless accompanied by adequate written documentation for a *legitimate* reason beyond the student's control (e.g. illness or an emergency in your immediate family). Late reading commentaries will be accepted *only* up to 5 days past the indicated due date/time.

Responsibilities and commitments for in-class presentations should be taken seriously and only changed if adequate documentation is provided for a legitimate reason. 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. 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			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course; DEF = Deferred; INC = Incomplete. 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.

## **STATEMENT ON 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 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 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 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

**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 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).

### **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 is 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: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline).