Seminar in Special Topics on the City

GEOG 4023: Law, Power and Resistance
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University

Class Time: Wednesdays 11:35 am - 2:25 pm
Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Ridgley
Email: jennifer.ridgley@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Online by appointment, booked through cuLearn

Course Description
This seminar course examines how urban geographies are produced at the intersection of complex legal processes and forms of resistance. It begins with an introduction to the field of Legal Geographies and explores how legal geographers have come to understand the relationship between law and space. Through an in-depth exploration of pressing urban issues such as settler colonialism, racism in policing and planning, and public health, students will be exposed to diverse and contested understandings of law, power, and resistance in the city.

This intensive seminar is based on collective and interactive learning and in-depth engagement with assigned readings. In addition to weekly reading reflections and responses, the class will gather for synchronous group discussions and learning activities every other week during scheduled class time. Students will also have an opportunity to conduct in-depth research on a topic of their choice related to course themes.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

• Engage in collegial, respectful, and complex discussions of contentious urban issues based on careful readings of course texts
• Demonstrate concrete improvements in academic writing, reading, analysis, argumentation, and communication skills based on course assignments
• Identify key lines of scholarly inquiry related to law and geography
• Develop sound arguments about contemporary urban issues based on course resources as well as independent reading and research on a topic of their choice
Core Principles
This course has been developed around the following core principles:
• Interactive learning
• Respect for diverse informed perspectives, experiences, and methodologies
• In-depth engagement with advanced scholarship addressing issues of law, power, and resistance in the city, with specific focus on research that has historically been underrepresented in academia
• Building a collaborative and supportive learning environment through group discussion, consultation, and peer feedback
• An interdisciplinary approach to the study of urban issues
• Close reading and analysis of scholarly texts

Course Format and Expectations
This is a blended course (with both synchronous and asynchronous components). Students are expected to be available during the Wednesday meeting times (11:25am to 2:25pm) for synchronous activities via web conferencing tools. That being said, the class will generally meet every other week (7 times in total) at 12:30. A detailed schedule of synchronous activities will be posted on the cuLearn page the first week of class. Access to a reliable, high-speed Internet connection, computer, webcam and a headset with a microphone is required for this course.

This course will also involve learning activities and tasks that take place in a virtual course space (cuLearn), where students move through weekly activities at their own pace. In order to prepare for productive and informed synchronous and online class discussions, students are expected to complete all assigned readings, reflections, and learning activities before Tuesday at 5pm. Readings and learning activities will be available on cuLearn at least one week before they are due, although many of the readings for the course will be posted online starting the first week of class. There are no tests or exams in this course.

Students are required to submit some of their written course work using Word and other MS Office programs. Word and MS Office software is available to Carleton students at no charge here: https://carleton.ca/its/ms-offer-students/.

Prerequisites
GEOG 3023 or fourth-year Honours standing in Geography or Environmental Studies or BGInS Specialization in Globalization and Environment.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Synchronous Class 12:30pm: Introduction to Course</td>
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<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Introduction to Urban Legal Geographies</td>
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<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Settler Colonialism, Property and Geographies of Violence</td>
<td>Synchronous Class 12:30pm: Legal Geographies and Settler Colonialism</td>
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<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>Indigenous Resurgence and Resistance</td>
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Final Project Topics Due Tuesday Oct 6th at 5pm (5%) |
| Oct 14  | Policing, Prisons, Planning I                                        |                                                                                  |
| Oct 21  | Policing, Prisons, Planning II                                       | Synchronous Class 12:30pm: Policing the City                                   |
| Oct 28  | Reading Week                                                         |                                                                                  |
| Nov 4   | Urban Public Health                                                  |                                                                                  |
| Nov 11  | Healthy Cities and Mutual Aid                                        | Synchronous Class 12:30pm: Healthy Cities and Mutual Aid                       |
| Nov 18  | Abolition Geographies: Ideas and Histories                           |                                                                                  |
| Nov 25  | Abolition Geographies: Practices                                     | Synchronous Class 12:30pm: Abolition Geographies                               |
| Dec 2   | Optional Final Project Meetings                                      | Final Project Presentations Due Tuesday Dec 1st at 5pm (10%)                   |
| Dec 9   | Final Reflections and Wrap Up                                        | Synchronous Class 12:30pm: Final Projects and Reflections  
Final Papers / Projects due Tuesday, December 8th 5pm (24%) |
Texts and Readings

There is no need to purchase a textbook for this course. All required readings will be available through cuLearn or Ares (Carleton’s electronic reserve system). Most of the readings will be available starting the first week of class, but there may be some adjustment to the reading schedule and list depending on how class discussions evolve.

Evaluation

Weekly Reading Reflections (3% each x 10) .................................................. 30%
Responses (2% each x 5) ............................................................................. 10%
Participation in Synchronous Classes (3% each x 7) ............................. 21%
Final Paper/Project ................................................................................... 39%

Includes:
Proposal 5%
Presentation 10%
Final Paper/Project 24%

Total Course Grade ................................................................................. 100%

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

WDN = Withdrawn from the course
ABS = Student absent from final exam
DEF = Deferred (see below)
FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam
Note that 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.

Weekly Reading Reflections and Responses

Most weeks, students will be required to submit brief reflections on assigned readings and learning resources via the cuLearn page. Reflections are due on Tuesdays at 5pm the week the readings are assigned. The final grade for this component of the course will be based on the best 10 reading reflections (3% each), which means that students can miss a reflection without penalty to their final grade.
Occasionally, students will also be asked to read and submit responses to their colleagues’ reflections. Responses are due on Tuesdays at 5pm one week after the original reflection was due. The final grade for this component of the course will be based on the best 5 responses (2% each). Detailed instructions, prompts, and grading rubrics for reading reflections and responses will be available on the cuLearn page.

**Participation in Synchronous Classes**

Learning in this seminar is also dependent on regular attendance and participation in synchronous class activities and discussions. Seven (7) synchronous classes will be held throughout the term, where students will receive a participation grade for engaging in discussion and learning activities. The schedule for synchronous classes is below. Participation grades are based on a combination of:

- Attendance (a simple tally of the number of classes attended); and
- Engagement (a qualitative assessment of your contribution to class: come prepared, on time, raise questions, actively engage in discussions, make meaningful contributions to class discussion, complete voluntary activities when requested, etc.)

Students will have an opportunity to provide input into participation grades.

To create a safe learning space, encourage exploration, and facilitate active participation in challenging class discussions, synchronous classes will **not be recorded or posted in cuLearn**. If you need to miss class because of illness or another unforeseen circumstance, please contact the professor as soon as you are aware of this situation.

**Final Paper / Project**

A significant part of the final grade in this course will be based on a term paper or project that will involve independent research and analysis on a topic related to the course. For this assignment, students are permitted to work in pairs or groups of 3 (and receive a group grade), but they can also choose to work independently (and receive an individual grade). Detailed instructions for this component of the course will be posted during the first few weeks of class.

**Late Policy**

The late penalty for each component of the final paper/project is -10% a day. Late reading reflections and responses will not be accepted without formal accommodation.

Submission of course work on time is important for the collective learning experience. This is particularly true of contributions to online class discussions, and course work that will be shared with other students. Nevertheless, unforeseen and emergency circumstances may arise which understandably prevent students from submitting work on time (for example, illness, childcare responsibilities, death of a loved one, etc.). If this happens, students should contact
the professor as soon as possible and no later than three working days of the due date to receive a formal accommodation.

Notes on Communication: “Ask Your Professor” and Emails
Students are encouraged to post questions about the course or assignments on the “Ask Your Professor” discussion forum on the cuLearn page. The professor will respond to posts at least once a day during the week between 8:30am and 4:30pm (Monday to Friday). Private questions about standing in the course, accommodations, etc. may be emailed to the professor. Email should be used sparingly.

Students are expected to use their Carleton email addresses or the email function on cuLearn for all emails. It is important to include the course code (GEOG 4023) in the subject line of all emails to the professor. To ensure clear communication, please use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. The professor will make every effort to respond to emails within 2-3 working days. Please note that professors generally respond to emails between 8:30am and 4:30pm on weekdays, and so emails received on Friday may not be responded to until the following Tuesday.

Office Hours
Students are strongly encouraged to schedule an office hours appointment to raise questions and concerns about the course, readings, or assignments. Office hours can be booked through the “Office Hours Booking” function on cuLearn.

Copyright and Intellectual Property
Classroom teaching and learning activities, including slides, reflections, discussions, assignments, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Aside from the official legal contexts above, please note that the collective creation of a safe, trusting, and supportive learning environment to discuss and debate challenging subjects is an important expectation of students, faculty, and guests in this class. For this reason, all participants are asked to refrain from recording, copying, or re-posting anything from the course page or synchronous class sessions we hold together outside of the cuLearn course page.
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 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 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 Withdrawal

December 11th is the last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

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, 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 learning activity requiring accommodation. Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
You may need other special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**
Please contact your professor 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: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

**Religious obligation**
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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

**Academic accommodations for students with disabilities**
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

**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

**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
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://www.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/current/

Deferred Assignments and/or Grades

Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honored. If you are unable to complete the term project or assignments or participate in class because of illness or other circumstances beyond your control, you may apply within five working days to the Registrarial Services Office for permission to extend a deadline. Permission can be granted only if the request is fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documents.