

**GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
Carleton University**

**COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2021**

**COURSE:** **Doctoral Seminar: Geography, Society and the Environment (GEOG 6000)**

**INSTRUCTOR:** **Derek Mueller**  
Room A427, Loeb Building  
Email: [derek.mueller@carleton.ca](mailto:derek.mueller@carleton.ca)  
Phone: 613-520-2600 x1984

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesdays 11:30 to 12:30, by chance or appointment.

**SEMINARS:** **Wednesdays 08:35 - 11:25 Loeb A200**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Geographical perspectives on the development of society/environment interrelations in Western thought and critiques thereof. The course is designed to represent and address integrative issues in the two fields of the program, the geography of social change and the geography of environmental change. *(from Carleton University, Graduate Calendar)*

Examination of the production and use of geographical knowledge, including underlying philosophies, key theoretical concepts, and methodological approaches. Discussion and integrative approaches to understanding geographies of environmental and societal change. Provides an opportunity for students to locate their research interests within broader intellectual contexts. *(New version proposed for calendar 2022-23)*

**COMMUNICATION:**

This course uses Brightspace, Carleton's learning management system to disseminate materials and for discussion. To access your courses on Brightspace go to <http://brightspace.carleton.ca>. For help and support, go to <http://carleton.ca/students>. Any unresolved questions can be directed to Information Technology Services (ITS) by phone at 613-520-3700 or via email at [its.service.desk@carleton.ca](mailto:its.service.desk@carleton.ca).

**Private correspondence with the Instructor should be through a Carleton email account.** If you have questions of a general nature, please post it to the discussion board in Brightspace so that others can benefit from the answers. The Instructor will check email and Brightspace every 24 hours and do their best to respond to queries within 48 hours.

Information on Brightspace or sent via email will be considered to have been provided to all students within 24 hours of posting and students will be fully responsible for reading and responding appropriately to this information.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:**

A one term course in a seminar format. Students are expected to come to class well-prepared to actively participate and lead discussions of assigned readings. Guest speakers will be invited to the class to discuss topics of relevance to the course.

**TEXTBOOK/READINGS:**

There is no course textbook. Materials will be provided on Brightspace as a file or web link or placed on reserve at the library.

**EVALUATION:**

The course grade will reflect the student's overall performance and intellectual development. It will be based on the following elements to add to 100% of the final grade.

**Class participation (ongoing)**

**25%**

An assessment of class participation will be based primarily on being an active, engaged and informed participant. In-class discussions will follow a co-facilitation approach, whereby students will introduce specific readings. Students may also bring additional materials or issues to the attention of the seminar participants, during class or by email.

**Commentaries (ongoing)**

**18%**

Students are required to share with other members of class and the instructor brief but thoughtful comments stimulated by the assigned readings and other class content. The chief purpose of these preliminary contributions is to encourage reflection on one's own reactions to the readings in anticipation of the in-class discussion. The suggested length is about 400-500 words (not including references). ***These commentaries must be sent by email to the class no later than noon on the day preceding the seminar discussion.*** There will be a total of nine (9) commentaries over the course of the term. Commentaries should focus on the primary theme of the seminar, but can include connections to previous seminar readings and discussions.

**Doctoral research proposal, presentation and evaluation (September 15)**

**15%**

Incoming doctoral are typically preparing applications for external scholarships in September, even if their research ideas are in flux. In this assignment, students will complete a (nominally) **2-page research proposal plus bibliography** that outlines a viable doctoral project. Ideally this proposal will be well-aligned what you wish to do for your dissertation. It must be novel; you cannot propose to research that you have already conducted. Select the tri-council funding agency that best matches the discipline of your proposal and follow the instructions there assiduously.

- <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/doctoral-eng.aspx#prop> [Research proposal and bibliography sections]
- [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf\\_eng.asp#appinfo](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp#appinfo) [Outline of proposed research and bibliography sections]
- <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38887.html> [Research project summary section]

Please upload your written assignment before class on the deadline and come prepared to deliver a 15 minute presentation of your proposal. We will have ~10 minutes of discussion in class following each presentation. You will be asked to provide feedback on another student's proposal within a week and the Instructor will evaluate your proposal as well so you can incorporate this feedback into a scholarship application if you wish.

**Review essay (December 10)**

**30%**

Each student will prepare an essay (7500 words) on a topic that reviews the links between selected course themes and each student's own substantive research focus. Students are encouraged to consult with their supervisors on both the topic and approach to the review essay. Supervisors will also be involved in the assessment of the essay, if possible. In addition to this written assignment, there will be 2 presentations:

**Review essay proposal presentation (November 3)**

**5%**

Each student will take 10 minutes to present the ideas they wish to pursue for their Review essay. This will be followed by feedback and a group discussion.

**Review essay final presentation (December 8)**

**7%**

Each student will present their review essay to their peers, followed by a discussion. This final presentation should be done in a conference style – 15 minutes maximum, with 5 minutes for questions and discussion. Please prepare a one-page abstract and bibliography to be distributed to the rest of the class at the beginning of the presentation.

**Please Note:** While the structure of the final grade will be based on the components explained above, it will also take into account an assessment of personal intellectual growth achieved during the term. While superior scholarship is the goal that each student should aim for, in this first term, you are particularly encouraged to “think outside the box” and to take intellectual risks with the confidence to push intellectual boundaries rather than trying to get things perfect at this early stage of your doctoral career.

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.

### **Late Policy**

There is a nominal late policy of 5% per day. Students with medical or extenuating circumstances which cover the duration of the assignment period will be accommodated. However, students who anticipate missing course deadlines for these reasons must notify the instructor as soon as possible. Please complete the Medical Self-Declaration form available [here](#) as appropriate.

### **Student Conduct:**

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness. The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy \(PDF, 1MB\)](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students and more information is available at: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-rights-and-responsibilities/>.

The University has adopted a policy to deal with academic integrity and allegations of academic misconduct. This policy is expressed in the document [Carleton University Academic Integrity Policy](#). The policy describes in detail its scope of application, principles, definitions, rights and responsibilities, academic integrity standards, procedures, sanctions, transcript notations, appeal process, and records implications.

### **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 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, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, 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;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- 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 or even suspension or expulsion from the University.

**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 instructors 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

**Religious obligation:** write to instructors 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](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 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>

**Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures:**

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca)

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

**Cell phones and social media:**

Students must turn off their cell phones before each class. Interruption of classes by users of cell phones is disruptive and distracting for instructors and students alike. Consultation of social media during classes is similarly inappropriate.

**Uploading of course materials:**

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, 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).

**CLASS SCHEDULE/TOPICS (Subject to modification!!)**

Note – Guest speakers will be invited to the seminar, which may lead to some adjustments to the schedule below.

| Month | Day | Topic  | Commentary? | Other deadlines          |
|-------|-----|--|-------------|--------------------------|
| Sep   | 08  | 01 – Introduction to the course, Geography and to each other | No          |                          |
|       | 15  | 02 – Doctoral research proposal presentations                | No          | Research proposals due   |
|       | 22  | 03 – Geographic thought through time                         | Yes         |                          |
|       | 29  | 04 – How do we know what we know?                            | Yes         |                          |
| Oct   | 06  | 05 – Theory in geography                                     | Yes         |                          |
|       | 13  | 06 – Complexity in space and time                            | Yes         |                          |
|       | 20  | 07 – The significance of significance                        | Yes         |                          |
|       | 27  | READING WEEK – NO CLASS                                      | No          |                          |
| Nov   | 03  | 08 – Presentation of review essay proposals                  | No          |                          |
|       | 10  | 09 – Agnotology, ideology and mistrust                       | Yes         |                          |
|       | 17  | 10 – Reaching your audience                                  | Yes         |                          |
|       | 24  | 11 – Research, media and the general public                  | Yes         |                          |
| Dec   | 01  | 12 – The integrative ethos                                   | Yes         |                          |
|       | 08  | 13 – Review essay presentations                              | No          | Review essay due Dec. 10 |

Please consult the course Brightspace page for details about each topic and readings.