

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 1023: INTRODUCTION TO CITIES AND URBANIZATION (FALL 2021)

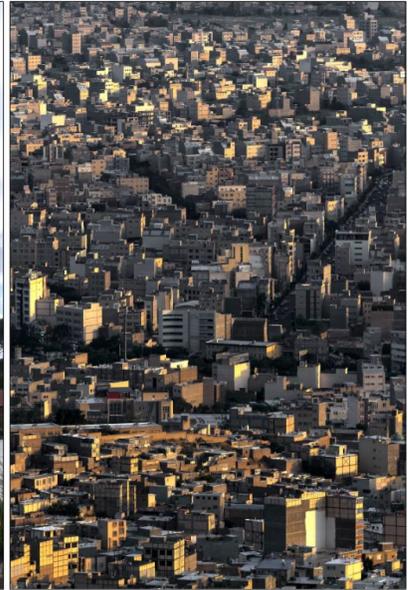
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CARLETON UNIVERSITY



Stockholm, Sweden



Victoria, Australia



Tabriz, Iran

Screenshots by Pablo Mendez, source: wikimedia.org

Lectures: Fridays, 9:35am – 11:25am

Tutorials: One section is in class (location TBA), the others are online (synchronous)

(NOTE: THIS IS A SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE. YOU MUST ATTEND THE LECTURES AND TUTORIALS VIA BRIGHTSPACE EVERY WEEK AT THE TIME THEY ARE DELIVERED.)

Instructor: Pablo Mendez

Office hours: Please email me to make an appointment (pablo.mendez@carleton.ca)

Course description

Cities as a broad form of human settlement have existed since ancient times, and perhaps for this reason it can be easy to take their existence for granted. Yet we shouldn't forget that cities have long been dynamic incubators of cultural, technological and political creativity, key drivers of economic development, significant centres of mass consumption fuelling environmental degradation, and critical sites of both social diversity and financial inequality. For better or for worse, there is nothing dull about cities and the processes that shape them. It's no wonder that many commentators have come to regard cities and urbanization as the most important of human inventions.

In this course, we will aim to make the familiar strange by learning about the ways cities are made and how we all participate in their making. Our task will be to examine how urban and suburban areas are shaped by various kinds of linkages between natural, physical, and social processes involving experts and lay persons alike. My goal will be to stimulate your interest in urban studies and provide you with a solid foundation should you decide to expand your knowledge of this topic in the future.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain a geographic understanding of urbanization processes and their variegated outcomes in contemporary and historical global contexts. They will also develop the ability to recognize the actors involved in such processes and to discuss the uneven influence they have on city making dynamics. In addition, students will learn to write an argumentative research paper.

Course materials

There are two required textbooks for this course. They can be purchased at a discounted package price at Haven Books (<http://havenbooks.ca/new/about/>). The titles are:

- Lees, Andrew (2015) *The City. A World History*. Oxford University Press.
- Muller, Jake (2014) *Writing in the Social Sciences. A Guide for Term Papers and Book Reviews. Second Edition*. Oxford University Press.

The syllabus, additional reading materials, and information about the course will be accessible through the Brightspace Course Management System. You must access your Brightspace account by going to: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/>

Note that lecture topics and required readings are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be announced on Brightspace.

Course Evaluation

Attendance and engagement (tutorials only):	7%
Field exercise (October 15, during class time):	5%
Two online midterm exams (Oct. 22 and Dec. 3 during class time, 15% each):	30%
Term paper (due Dec. 10):	30%
Take home final (open book, due Dec. 23):	28%

Tutorial attendance and participation: Attending the tutorial session in which you are registered is mandatory every week. You must come to the tutorial session having done the readings assigned. Your grade will be tied to the quality of your participation in class discussion. You must arrive on time and attend to the entirety of the session to receive full attendance points. Note that at the discretion of the teaching assistant you may be asked to give a short presentation on one of the assigned readings, with the goal of helping to jump start the class discussion. I recommend you review the orientation materials for online courses that Carleton Online provides at <https://carleton.ca/online/online-learning-orientation/>

Field exercise: Using a digital camera, you will be asked to “go out there” and document specific forms of urban infrastructure and urban everyday practices as they can be observed in and around your home or the places where you work or study. You will submit a field exercise report on Brightspace by the end of day on October 15. If you anticipate being unable to submit the report by this deadline, you are asked to request a five-calendar-day extension by clicking on a link that I will create for this purpose on Brightspace. Reports submitted after the extension deadline (end of the day on October 20) will attract a penalty of five points out of 100 per day late. More specific instructions will be provided in lecture and posted on Brightspace.

Online midterm exams: The goal of these exams is to test your comprehension of facts, processes and concepts introduced in lecture and provide you with feedback pertaining to the lecture component of the course. Question types may include multiple choice, fill in the blanks, long answer, and/or short essay questions. The midterms will take place during class time on October 22 and December 3. The second midterm will not be cumulative. You are not allowed to work

with others during the midterm exams or to consult course materials or any other sources. Every student must submit their own answers. Note that you will be able to review your midterm exam answers via Brightspace after they have been marked. Please note also that there will be no make-up midterms; if you miss one of them, the average of your grade on the other evaluation activities except the field exercise will count as your grade for the missed midterm. Students who miss both midterms will be considered as not in good standing (see the section *Minimum standards to be in good standing* below). If you wish to review one of your marked midterms, you'll be required to contact me by email no later than seven days after that exam's grades have been posted to make an appointment for that purpose.

Term paper: This assignment is meant to help you develop research and writing skills and allow you to apply the knowledge on the topic of cities and urbanization that you will acquire during the term. You will research and write a 1,500- to 2,000-word argumentative essay on a topic of your choosing related to cities and urbanization. Proper spelling, grammar and use of [APA citation format](#) is expected. I will be happy to answer general questions you may have about writing your essay but I will not read your draft and give you feedback on it. The term paper is due December 10 by the end of the day. If you anticipate being unable to submit your paper by this deadline, you are asked to request a five-calendar-day extension by clicking on a link that I will create for this purpose on Brightspace. Term papers submitted after the extension deadline (December 15) will attract a penalty of 5 points out of 100 per day late. You must submit your term paper on Brightspace. Papers submitted by email without the instructor's authorization will attract a penalty of 10 points out of 100. If you wish to review your marked paper, you'll be required to contact me by email no later than seven days after the term paper grades have been posted to make an appointment for that purpose. More details about the term paper requirements will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Take-home final exam: This open-book exam is meant to assess how well you have absorbed the material in the assigned textbooks. Question types may include multiple choice, fill in the blanks, long answer, and/or essay questions and will be available on Brightspace in the afternoon of December 10. This take-home exam will be due by the end of the day on Brightspace on December 23. Students requiring an extension due to illness or other special circumstances will need to petition the Office of the Registrar for an official deferral.

Retain copies of work submitted

Students are strongly advised to retain a hard copy (and electronic backup) of all work submitted and be prepared to provide it to the instructor in the event of loss for any reason.

Communication with the instructor

As you know, e-mail is excellent for conveying simple information but not a good medium for complex communication. Feel free to send messages to the instructor when you can realistically expect that your question can be answered in one or two sentences. Questions like "what are you looking for on the exam?" are inappropriate for an e-mail format. For this kind of complex information, please email the instructor to schedule an appointment and speak with him in person. It is important to include the course code in the subject line of all emails, to prevent messages from being automatically redirected to the instructor's junk email box. Messages that do not include this information in the subject line may not receive an answer from the instructor.

Minimum standards to be in good standing

To be considered in good standing, students must receive *a grade of D- or higher in at least one of the midterm exams and in the final exam.* At the discretion of the instructor, students who fail to meet this requirement may be given the opportunity to do an interview with him to demonstrate an adequate grasp of the course material.

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+ = 56-59

F = Below 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

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

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.

Drop date

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

Deferred examinations and grades

Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honoured. Please see the following webpage: <http://carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/>.

Instructional & 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/>

Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others' as one's own without adequately acknowledging the original source. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): copying from a book, article or another student; downloading material or ideas from the Internet and replicating these verbatim or without citation; or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.

University regulations stipulate that allegations of plagiarism, cheating or any violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. If the instructor suspects that a student has submitted plagiarized work, the submitted assignment will be forwarded to the Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. If it is agreed that an instructional offence may have been committed, the case will be forwarded to the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Affairs) of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. **University procedures do not permit the instructors to discuss the allegations with you.** You will receive a request from the Associate Dean's Office to discuss this matter in person with two Associate Deans. They decide if an

instructional offence has occurred, following an interview with the student, and decide what, if any, any penalties are warranted. Thus, you are advised to keep all research notes and printouts from web sites, even after you submit your paper.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to learn how to do research and how to cite sources properly. The following web site provides advice: <http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/avoid-plagiarism>

Writing tutorial service

If you feel you need assistance in improving your writing skills, you are encouraged to get in touch with the Writing Tutorial Service (Room 229, Patterson Hall, <http://www.carleton.ca/wts/>).

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

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

- **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, 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*) at <http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>
- **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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>
- **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 visit the Equity Services website: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/>

Student life services

Student Life Services, located in Room 501 of the Unicentre, offers a range of programs and services to assist students in adjusting to academic life, in improving their learning skills, and in making academic and career decisions.