

## COURSE OUTLINE

### GEOG 2023: CITIES, INEQUALITY, AND URBAN CHANGE (WINTER 2020)

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**Instructor:** Pablo Mendez

**Office:** B-441, Loeb Building

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

**Lecture location and time:** University Centre, room 182, Tue. 11:35 - 13:25

**Tutorials:** Loeb A410, one of: Tue. 16:35-17:25, 20:05-20:55, Wed. 10:35-11:25, or 11:35-12:25

#### Course description

Cities as a form of human settlement have existed since ancient times, and perhaps for this reason it can be easy to take their existence for granted. 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 various kinds of linkages between natural, physical, and social elements and processes involving experts and lay persons alike come to shape urban and suburban areas in different places around the planet.

#### 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 city making and to discuss their roles and uneven relationships. Finally, students will learn how to write an argumentative research paper.

#### Prerequisites

Second-year standing (or permission of the Department).

#### Course materials

There are two required textbooks for this course. They can 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 **cuLearn Course Management System**. You must access your cuLearn account by going to: <http://carleton.ca/culearnsupport/students/getting-started>

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

## Course Evaluation

Attendance and engagement (tutorials only):	14%
Field exercise (February 4, during class time):	5%
Two online midterm exams (Feb. 11 and Mar. 31 during class time, 13% each):	26%
Term paper (due March 17 at 10:30am):	30%
Take home final (open book, due April 25 at 10pm):	25%

Note that the instructor may adjust course grades to approximate a bell-shaped distribution for the class.

**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 day's presentations and lecture to receive full attendance points for each class. Note that at the discretion of the teaching assistant you may be asked once or twice in the term to give a short presentation on one of the assigned readings, with the goal of helping to jump start discussion.

**Field exercise:** Using a digital camera, you will be required to document specific forms of urban infrastructure and urban everyday practices as they can be observed in and around the Carleton University campus. More details will be provided during the term.

**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. They will take place during class time on February 11 and March 31. 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 work alone. Note that you will be able to review your midterm exam answers via cuLearn. Please note also that there will be no make-up midterms; if you miss one for justifiable and documented reasons, the average of your grade on all the other evaluation activities will count as your grade for the missed midterm. Missing a midterm without a justifiable and documented reason will attract a grade of zero on it.

**Term paper:** This assignment is meant to help you develop research and writing skills and allow you to apply knowledge on the topic of urbanization that you will acquire during the term. You will research and write a 1,000 to 1,500 word academic essay on a topic of your choosing related to cities and urbanization. Proper spelling, grammar and use of [APA citation format](#) is expected. Students will be able to make an appointment with the instructor in January to review their marked term project. The term paper is due March 17 at 10:30am. Note that term papers submitted after the deadline will attract a penalty of 5 points out of 100 per day late. More details about the term paper requirements will be provided in class and posted on cuLearn.

**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 short essay questions and will be available on cuLearn in the afternoon of March 31. This take-home exam will be due on cuLearn on April 25 at 10pm.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS AN EVALUATION ACTIVITY FOR JUSTIFIABLE REASONS:** If you must miss one of the evaluation activities for justifiable reasons, please do not email the instructor about it. Instead, submit your absence documentation using the link provided on cuLearn. Absence

documents will be reviewed at the end of term when the course grade is calculated; you may be contacted by the instructor at that point if there is a need for clarification.

### **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 remain unanswered.

### **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](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*) 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.