



fall 2025

People, Places and Environments

department of geography and environmental studies
geog/enst 1020a

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Office Hours: To Be Announced (TBA)

TAs: TBA

Course website: sign in to Brightspace [brightspace.carleton.ca/]

Course Description

Welcome to People, Places and Environments an introduction to human geography.

Geography is a methodology, a way of looking at that world that you use in your studies, and when you are trying to make sense of events in everyday life.

Geographers work by asking questions like:

- + where are things happening?
- + what is happening here?
- + why is it happening here?
- + how does here compare to there?
- + how did things get this way here, and how are they changing?

Human geography specifically looks at the relationship between humans and the rest of the (built, ecological, digital) environment. In this course we will introduce various theories and methods to make sense of events and conditions in the world, and think about how we might improve those conditions.

This is a first year course so there are no prerequisites, and the course is designed to provide a successful foundation for your university career.

Learning Outcomes

Participation in this course provides opportunities to:

1. Continue to practice skills in reading and writing across range of styles and media;
2. Recognize and define key ideas from human geography;
3. Describe the connections between human geography and everyday questions and concerns;
4. Use key ideas to analyze cases and reflect of your own engagement and experiences in the world.

These learning outcomes are a strong foundation for various career readiness competencies including: Research and Analysis, Communication, and Professionalism and Work Ethic.

[source: <https://carleton.ca/employability-framework/areas-of-focus/career-competencies/>]

Active Learning, Care and Accessibility

One of the ways university is different from secondary school is that you have to be an active learner to be successful (including getting good grades).

Being an active learner means participating in your own learning. Just like learning a new sport or instrument you'll need to put in some practice to improve as the course goes on, participate in all class activities, reflect on how and what you are learning, and think about how what you are learning connects to other courses and everyday life.

Active learning also means taking risks, like sharing your ideas and understandings, trying new things and listening with openness and care to different perspectives.

You are also expected to complete all of your own work with honesty and integrity. When you are unclear about what is permitted use student success resources for writing, research and citation, and do not hesitate to ask the teaching team!

While school is really important, taking care of yourself, your family and your community is more important. You can get in touch with Health and Counselling [<https://carleton.ca/health>] including the wellness program [<https://wellness.carleton.ca>] for ideas for physical and mental wellness, and when you are in need of health care. Awards and Financial Aid can provide supports and opportunities including small one-time Student Emergency Funding [<https://wellness.carleton.ca/resources/student-emergency-funding/>].

The details of your medical diagnosis, financial and community circumstances are your own stories to share or not share as you choose. But letting the teaching team know, in general terms, if something is impacting your learning means that we can work with you around the possibility of accommodations, adjustments and alternatives to help you meet the requirements of the course.

The teaching team also believes the course will be made stronger through the participation of students with a wide range of abilities, disabilities, identities, skills and experiences. So we are working to make the course as accessible as possible for all students. Please do not hesitate to approach us if there is something that would support your learning but that we have not thought about.

There are also centres, groups and clubs across campus that work to provide information and build community. Reaching out and getting involve can be another important way to improve your university experience!

Texts

There is no textbook for this course, and no additional fees for readings. A curated collection of required readings and the full reading schedule will be posted on the course Brightspace, or online portal for the course.

Course Calendar

Throughout the course we will introduce keywords and methods from different areas of human geography. Then we will apply these keywords to help us understand different environments from multiple perspectives.

Each week we will all meet in person for lectures, where the instructor will review keywords from the reading adding context and with opportunities for reflection. Later in the week each of you will meet with a small group and a TA in tutorials. This is an opportunity to continue the discussion from lectures and practice skills you will use in assignments.

Dates and Topics

wk1 - Introductions
September 8

wk2 - Cultural Geography
September 15

wk3 Cartography
September 22

wk4 Economic Geography
September 29

wk5 Political Geography
October 6

Holiday Break (no course activities)
October 13

Fall Break (no course activities)
October 20

wk6 Research Methods
October 27

wk7 Political Ecology
November 3

wk8 Energy Spaces
November 10

wk9 Suburbs
November 17

wk10 Borders
November 24

wk11 Digital space
December 1

wk12 Universities
December 5

Evaluation

Detailed assignment descriptions will be released throughout the term

The main assignments connect to the course topics, and will demonstrate your knowledge, comprehension and application of key ideas and methods discussed in the course. All assignments should be completed by you, and be submitted on Brightspace.

All assignment evaluations will be returned on Brightspace, remember to read comments and not just look at your grade. These comments will help you to improve your work throughout the term.

Assignment 1: Cultural Geography + Cartography
(21 points) due October 3 by 11:59p

Assignment 2: Economic + Political Geography
(21 points) due October 31 by 11:59p

Assignment 3: Describe Root Causes
(21 points) due November 21 by 11:59p

Assignment 4: Discuss Theory
(21 points) due December 5 by 11:59p

Assignment 5: Asking Questions
(21 points) due December 20 by 11:59p

Lecture Reflections

Each week there will be short reflection exercises released during the lecture and due 11:59p the night before the next lecture. These are an opportunity to evaluate your understanding of readings and lectures.
(10 points) due: ongoing, Sundays by 11:59p

Final Reflection

The final assignment is an opportunity for you to reflect on your learning throughout the term, and what you want to do next.
(6 points) due December 20 by 11:59p

Centre for Student Academic Support - Incentive Program

The CSAS provides a series of self directed Learning and Writing Support Workshops to support your success as a student.

If you complete at least three workshops 3 additional points will be added to your final grade.

You can choose any three workshops based on your interests and the skills you want to improve.

Submit your Record of Completion as proof that you have completed the workshop.

(3 additional points) final submission date December 20

No late assignments will be accepted, only your highest ten grades for Lecture Reflections and highest four grades for Assignments 1-5 will be included in your overall grade.

“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.” [source: FASS-FPGA Minimal Course Outline Template 2025]

Resources for Student Success and Engagement

Carleton Online

[<https://carleton.ca/online/>]

resources and information for online learning at Carleton

Academic Advising Centre

[<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>]

help with study skills, getting clarity about the academic rules and academic planning

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS)

[<https://carleton.ca/csas/>]

help with writing, and peer tutoring and advice

Office of Student Affairs

[<https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/>]

help with getting connected to resources for success in lots of areas including stress, health and finance

MacOrdum Library

[<https://library.carleton.ca/services/services-undergraduate-students>]

help with study, research and citation skills and research materials

Health and Counseling Services

[<https://carleton.ca/health/>]

physical and mental health care

Awards and Financial Aid

[<https://carleton.ca/awards/>]

financial support and planning

Paul Menton Centre

[<https://carleton.ca/pmc/>]

help with disability and course accommodations

Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities

[<https://carleton.ca/equity/>]

supports around equity, inclusion and discrimination, including peer support for sexual violence

The Ojigkwanong Indigenous Student Centre

[<https://carleton.ca/indigenous/cisce/>]

provides a space for Indigenous (First Nation, Métis and Inuit) students to study, socialize and participate in cultural programming

International Student Services Office

[<https://carleton.ca/isso/>]

support for international students and Canadian students interested in international experiences

Carleton University Student Association (CUSA)

[<https://www.cusaonline.ca>]

CUSA runs various programs including nine service centres including a food centre, Hatch entrepreneurship program, Gender & Sexuality Centre, Womxn's Centre, Racialized & International Student Experience (Rise), the Wellness Centre. This is also your organization, so you can get involved with existing initiatives, join clubs Carleton Geography & Environmental Studies Student's Association, or propose your own clubs. [<https://www.cuges.org/>]

Academic Integrity

"a. Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit.

...this is not a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy...

c. Permissibility of the use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT).

...any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards. ...

d. A statement on plagiarism ...

"The University Academic Integrity Policy 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, artworks, 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, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)

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

failing to acknowledge sources with 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 follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of "F" for the course.

...Statement on Student Mental Health

..."As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>"

...Requests for Academic Accommodations

"Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline)."

[source: FASS-FPGA Minimal Course Outline Template 2025]

[image source: Lewis, Frederick Christian. 1807. Fall of the Grande Chaudiere on the Outaouais River (Ottawa, Ontario)]