GEOG 2023: Cities, Inequality and Urban Change

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University
Fall 2025

Lecture: Tuesdays, 9:35-11:25am, Southam Hall 416

Tutorials: A1 Thursdays 9:35am-10:25am Loeb A410
A2 Thursdays 10:35am-11:25an Loeb A410
A3 Fridays 11:35am-12:25pm Loeb A410
A4 Fridays 12:35pm-1:25pm Loeb A410

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Ridgley, Loeb B355, jennifer.ridgley@carleton.ca

TAs: Sneha Sumanth SnehaSumanth@cmail.carleton.ca (Thursday tutorials)
Zackary Martin ZackaryMartin@cmail.carleton.ca (Friday tutorials)

Office Hours: Details about office hours will be posted on the Brightspace page.

Brightspace Course Page Link: https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/370264

> **Important note about emailing:** Please contact your TA with any questions you have about the course. It is important to include the course code and tutorial number (eg. GEOG 2023, A2) in the subject line of ALL emails to ensure they are not redirected to spam filters. Emails without the course code and section number may not be received and thus may not receive a reply.

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1. Course Description

This course explores geographical perspectives on the uneven power relationships and politics that shape urban lives and urban space. It provides an introduction to Critical Urban Geography and examines how factors such as gender, class, dis/ability, race and sexuality shape city life and city form. It will also investigate how urban residents, social movements, and policy makers have attempted to address key urban issues such as inequality, housing, segregation, changing livelihoods, and sustainability.

This is an in-person course and is not suitable for online or remote learners.

Prerequisite(s): GEOG 1023, or second-year standing, or permission of the department. Note this course precludes additional credit for GEOG 2400 (no longer offered).

2. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Apply key concepts in Urban Geography to analyze urban inequality and urban change;
- Identify how factors such as gender, class, dis/ability, race and sexuality shape city life and city form;
- Describe how urban residents, social movements, and policy makers have attempted to address key urban issues such as inequality, health, safety, livelihoods, mobility and sustainability;
- Demonstrate improved communication and academic skills, including writing, oral presentation, reading comprehension, and argument.

3. Required Readings and Textbooks

There is no need to purchase a textbook for this course. All required readings will be posted on Brightspace or made available through *Ares*, Carleton's online course reserve system. A detailed schedule of required readings will be posted on Brightspace.

Students are expected to complete all required readings each week before attending lectures and tutorials.

4. Prohibitions on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (e.g. ChatGPT)

In GEOG 2023, the use of generative artificial intelligence tools is very restricted. Students may only use AI tools for grammar and spell checking their (already produced) written work, or for basic formatting and design suggestions (eg. Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor, etc.).

Other uses of generative artificial intelligence tools for the creation or submission of graded work, or while completing learning activities in tutorials or lectures, are prohibited. Any unauthorized use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy (https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-2021.pdf)

This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, and layout. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without relying on AI support.

Documenting AI use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

5. Course Calendar

Lecture Date	Topic(s)	
Sept 9	Introduction to Course and Spatial Justice	No tutorials
Sept 16	Cities for Whom? The Right to the City	
Sept 23	Urban Poverty, Informal Settlements and Everyday Life	
Sept 30	Housing, Home and Residential Segregation Urban Encounters Assignment due Friday October 3th (10%)	
Oct 7	Planning, Politics and Policy	
Oct 14	Midterm Test (20%)	No tutorials
Oct 21	Fall Break	No tutorials
Oct 28	Planning, Politics and Policy cont'd	
Nov 4	Social Reproduction, Gender and Sexuality in the City	
Nov 11	Nature, Sustainability and Justice	
Nov 18	Term Test (25%)	
Nov 25	The Dis/abling City	Term Project Presentations
Dec 2	Course Conclusion Term Project written submissions due Friday, December 5th	Term Project Presentations

6. Evaluation

Final grades will be based on the following:

Tutorial Participation	10%
Learning Activities (in-class)	15%
Urban Encounters Assignment	10% (Due Friday October 3th)
Midterm Test	20% (October 14th)
Term Test	25% (November 18th)
Term Projects and Presentations	20% (Presentation dates TBD, written submissions due Friday, December 5th)

Tutorial Participation and Learning Activities

Students are expected to come to every class (lectures and tutorials) prepared to discuss the readings and course content, participate in learning activities and work towards course learning objectives.

Tutorial Participation (10%) will be evaluated as a combination of attendance (the number of classes attended) and engagement (a qualitative assessment of your contributions to tutorials). Tutorial engagement includes: coming to tutorial prepared (having attended lecture and completed required readings), arriving on time, answering questions, contributing to a productive learning environment and actively engaging in discussions and activities.

If you must miss a tutorial due to illness or emergency, please inform your TA as soon as possible to avoid penalties to your grade.

Learning Activities (15%) involve short **in-class** exercises that are **marked as complete/incomplete**. Some of these activities will be short "knowledge check" quizzes designed to help students assess their learning, and some will be learning activities which encourage reflection and analysis of course content.

Note that you cannot "make up" these in-class activities, but students are permitted to miss one day of these activities due to illness or emergency without penalty to their grade. Learning activities will take place in lecture or tutorials without advance notice.

Urban Encounters Assignment

Detailed instructions, grading rubrics and preparation for the Urban Encounters Forum assignment will be provided in class and on the Brightspace course page. This assignment is due Friday, October 4th.

Term Projects and Group Presentations

Over the course of the term, students will work in groups to conduct in-depth research on urban issues and present their findings to the class. Detailed instructions, grading rubrics, and important dates for this component of the course will all be available on the Brightspace page in early October.

Note Re. Final Grades

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.

Note Re. Original Work

Students are not permitted to submit work in GEOG 2023 which is substantially similar to something submitted for credit in another course, or a previous year in GEOG 2023. All assignments should involve research and writing which is original to this term's GEOG 2023 course.

7. Late Assignments, Extensions and Tests

Unforeseen and emergency circumstances may arise which understandably prevent students from completing assignments and tests on time (for example, illness, childcare responsibilities, death of a loved one, etc.). For **assignments**, students should contact their TA as soon as possible and no later than 2 working days after the due date to request formal accommodation. Without formal accommodation, the late penalty for assignments is -5% a day. Students who must miss a **test** due to emergency circumstances should complete Carleton's Academic Consideration for Coursework form: https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/.

Note that GEOG 2023 does not require the submission of medical notes for late assignments or missed tests.

For obvious reasons, extensions are not available for group presentations.

8. Notes on Communication: "Ask Your Teaching Team" and Emails

Students are encouraged to post questions about the course or assignments on the "Ask Your Teaching Team" discussion forum on the Brightspace page. The team 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 Instructor or your TA. Email should be used sparingly.

Students are expected to use their Carleton email addresses or the email function on Brightspace for all emails. It is important to include the course code and section (eg. GEOG 2023, A4) in the subject line of all emails to ensure they are not redirected to spam filters. Emails without the course code and section number may not be received and thus may not receive a reply. To ensure clear communication, please use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. The teaching team will make every effort to respond to emails within 2-3 working days. Please note that teaching staff 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.

9. Office Hours

Students are strongly encouraged to schedule office hours with their TA or the Instructor to raise questions and concerns, or to engage in discussion about the course, readings, or assignments. Details about office hours will be posted on Brightspace.

10. 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 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 lectures or tutorials outside of the Brightspace course page.

11. 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/

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.

12.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/.

13.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).