Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
GEOG 6001: *Doctoral Core Seminar – Geography, Society and the Environment Research and Professional Practice*
Course Syllabus / Winter Term 2026

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Seminar:	Thursdays, 11:35 am – 2:25 pm, January 8 – April 2, 2026

GEOG 6001 [0.5 credit] – Doctoral Core Seminar – *Research and Professional Practice*

Calendar description: 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. Includes: Experiential learning activity.

Format: Seminar, three hours per week.

DGES Land Acknowledgement

Carleton University is located on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Algonquin nation. We acknowledge that both the university and the discipline of geography have played key roles in colonial domination and violence. We commit to examining and addressing the ways in which our research, teaching, and institutional activities – all shaped by settler colonialism – act as barriers to (or support inclusion of) Indigenous knowledges and peoples. We further commit to the process of dismantling settler colonial knowledges and methodologies in our curriculum, determining how to better support Indigenous students, staff, and faculty, and revisiting our progress annually.

Learning Outcomes

- To situate geographical research interests and perspectives within a broader intellectual context, both philosophically and methodologically;
- To develop an area of inquiry and begin to conceptualize dissertation research, including preliminary development of a draft proposal;
- To begin to consider what it means to decolonize research, knowledge and the academy;
- To hone effective communication skills (academic writing, oral presentation, group facilitation, peer feedback);

- To foster an environment of collegiality, mutual respect and appreciation for the intellectual benefits of exploring a broad range of interests and perspectives related to the geography of social change, the geography of environmental change, and their inter-relations;
- To develop a community of scholars with an appreciation of the challenges and rewards of doctoral-level research; and,
- To explore various aspects of professional practice (engaged scholarship, applied research, career trajectories, teaching philosophy, among others).

Readings

Required readings are detailed in the Course Outline. Some readings will be available through MacOdrum Library (either as electronic holdings or on reserve); most readings with public URLs will be available online through Brightspace. There will be no costs associated with these readings.

Course Calendar

NB Students will serve as reading discussant twice, between January 15 and March 12.

1. On becoming a geographer (January 8)

2. On geography in the Anthropocene (January 15)

3. On decolonizing research (January 22)

4. On developing a teaching philosophy (January 29)

5. On publishing (February 5)

6. On drafting a thesis proposal (February 12)
---------- February 19 (no class, Winter Break February 16-20)

7. On engaged scholarship (February 26)

8. On lay dissemination and research impact (March 5)
DUE: Workshop of Design Spines (10%) (March 8)

9. On academic and non-academic careers (March 12)

10. One-on-one meetings (March 16-20)
DUE: Draft of Academic CV (March 16-20)

11. *Fierce Conversation Training* (March 26)

12. Major project presentations (April 2)
DUE: Major Project Presentations (10%) (April 2)
DUE: Final submission (20%) (April 8)

Distribution of Grades:

Evaluation:	Value:
Participation	30%
A1: Reading Discussant Role(s)	30%
Major Project: Design Spine (10%) Presentation (10%) Final Submission (20%)	40%
Total:	**100%**

Your confidential grades will be sent by e-mail as soon as they are available. Please notify your professor of any omissions and/or inaccuracies. Detailed guidelines for each assignment and project will be available through Brightspace.

Assignments will generally be issued and received online, through Brightspace. Late assignments will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a doctor's note. Otherwise, if you are late for a due date, hand the assignment as soon as you are able for small penalty (it is still well worth your while to complete all course work).

Participation

Representing 30% of your total grade, your participation will be evaluated in equal measure as follows:

❑ Attendance (a simple tally of the number of classes attended); multiplied by,
❑ Participation (a qualitative assessment of your contribution to class).

NB In a graduate-level, seminar setting, it is imperative that students complete the assigned readings prior to class; attend all classes; engage positively and respectfully in class discussions and group work; raise questions; complete voluntary activities when requested; bring in relevant materials to share with peers; and maintain their personal integrity and academic honesty throughout.

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
A = 85-89   B = 73-76   C = 63-66   D = 53-56
A - = 80-84   B - = 70-72   C - = 60-62   D - = 50-52
F = Below 50

WDN = Withdrawn from the course
ABS = Student absent from final exam
DEF = Deferred
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.

Academic Standing and Conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct.
- For grad students, see the 2025/2026 *Carleton University Graduate Calendar*: http://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

If you use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, etc.) to produce assessed content, please do so with extreme caution. You will still be held to the highest standards of academic integrity, and thus responsible for any plagiarism, AI hallucinations, and inaccurate or fabricated references. I expect you to use these tools in an ethically sound manner, to be explicit and transparent about their use, and to seek approval first. We will discuss expectations around the ethical use of AI in one of the first classes of the term.

Students can access resources related to citing Generative AI on the MacOdrum Library website: https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/generative-ai-chatgpt-and-citations

Academic Integrity Policy

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:

- 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.

- NB You may submit a piece of work that has been submitted in the context of another course, provided you are transparent in its use, seek permission from the instructor, and delineate duplications/extensions from the previous submission.

- NB Unless explicitly permitted, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, images, summaries, videos, etc.) is a violation of academic integrity standards. Keep your various drafts so that you can demonstrate the integrity and progress of your work.

- Guidelines for any group or collaborative work will be clearly delineated in the relevant assignment.

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/

Emergency Resources
- **Suicide Crisis Helpline:** call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **For immediate danger or urgent medical support:** call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** https://carleton.ca/wellness/
- **Health & Counselling Services**: https://carleton.ca/health/
- **Paul Menton Centre:** https://carleton.ca/pmc/
- **Academic Advising Centre (AAC):** https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/
- **Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS**): https://carleton.ca/csas/
- **Equity & Inclusivity Communities:** https://carleton.ca/equity/

Off-Campus Resources
- **Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region:** call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/
- **Mental Health Crisis Service:** call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at http://www.crisisline.ca/
- **Empower Me Counselling Service:** call 1-844-741-6389 or connect online at https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/
- **Good2Talk:** call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at https://good2talk.ca/
- **The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:** for online or on-site service https://walkincounselling.com

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).

You should provide any **additional information** on your requirements for short-term informal accommodations.

- If you require supporting documentation for short-term considerations, you may only request the Academic Consideration for Coursework form (https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/). You may **not** request medical notes or documentation.
- Consult the Academic Consideration Policy for instructors (https://i.carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-policy/) information page for more details.