

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 2200: GLOBAL CONNECTIONS, LATE SUMMER 2026

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Delivery: Online, asynchronous

Lectures: Posted on Brightspace on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 1pm

Instructor: Pablo Mendez

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

TA Information: To be posted on Brightspace <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/284492>

Course description

This course is about exploring and understanding connections between human activities happening at home and in other parts of the planet, ranging from the worldwide propagation of cultural trends and the constantly evolving processes of production and distribution of consumer goods, to the ongoing search for institutions that can effectively coordinate global action to address issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, political conflict, and economic inequality.

A wide range of questions and developments regarding the dynamics of globalization will be covered. What I mean by globalization is the complex set of cultural, political, and economic interactions linking people, places and environments across the world. Arguably, the importance of global connections resides in their power to shape what we experience as the local (even if, as we will see, the local is what makes global connections possible at every turn). Given their widespread influence on virtually every aspect of human and more-than-human life on the planet, global connections are something we can ill afford to ignore.

My goal for this course is to introduce you to the fascinating, sometimes paradoxical, and often contested phenomenon of global connectivity and its ongoing power to configure and reconfigure the world. To this end, part of the course is devoted to exploring the fair trade movement -- a far-reaching project aimed at creating a socio-ecologically friendly form of global interconnectivity.

Prerequisites

Second-year standing or permission of the Department.

Learning Outcomes

You will gain a geographic understanding of the concept of global connections in the economic, political, environmental and cultural realms. You will also develop the ability to recognize institutional and everyday forms of interconnection between different world regions. In addition, you will learn about the fair trade movement as a socio-ecologically friendly alternative to mainstream forms of global connectivity. Finally, you will acquire the ability to discuss key distinguishing features of various key actors and their roles in the uneven processes of globalization.

When to watch the lectures

This online course is asynchronous. Three lectures lasting approximately one hour and thirty minutes each will be available on Brightspace every week at 1pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The first lecture will be posted on July 3. You are required to watch the three weekly lectures no later than the Sunday after they have been posted. For example, you must watch the lectures posted July 6, 8, and 10 no later than Sunday, July 12. Please review Carleton's orientation materials for online courses at <https://carleton.ca/online/getting-started-in-your-online-course/>

Course materials

The textbook for this course is:

The Fair Trade Handbook. Building a Better World Together. Edited by Gavin Fridell, Zack Gross, and Sean McHugh. Fernwood Publishing, 2021. (Available at <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/the-fair-trade-handbook>; listed at \$26, but this price might change. Use of the digital version is allowed.)

Additional reading materials will be available online free of charge.

The syllabus and additional information and materials for the course will be posted on the Brightspace Course Management System. You must access your Brightspace account by going to: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/>

Communication with the instructor

You are encouraged to contact me with questions and concerns about the course, readings, or assignments. As you know, e-mail is excellent for conveying simple information but not a good medium for complex communication. Feel free to send me messages 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 me to schedule an appointment. It is important to include the course code (**GEOG 2200**) in the subject line of all emails you send me, to prevent messages from being automatically redirected to my spam mailbox.

Evaluation

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Weekly quizzes (10% each)	60%
Final exam	40%

Weekly quizzes: You will be required to write six quizzes, one at the end of each week starting the week of July 6. Each quiz will contain 30 multiple-choice questions on the material covered in lecture on that specific week. The quizzes are due at 11:59 PM every Friday (including August 14). If you miss a weekly deadline, you will be allowed to submit the quiz without penalty within two days, meaning by Sunday at 11:59 PM (no need to contact the instructor to receive this automatic extension). There will be no make-up quizzes offered after the extended deadline. However, in recognition of the fact that extenuating circumstances may prevent you on occasion from completing required work, a grade equal to your average score in all the other quizzes and the final exam will be assigned for up to two missed attempts. Note you are required to work alone and submit your own answers. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT to produce assessed content is not permitted. More details about the quizzes will be provided in lecture and posted on Brightspace.

Final exam: The date of the exam will be announced by the University in late July. You may write it from anywhere with a reliable Wi-Fi connection. The exam will test your knowledge and comprehension of the material covered throughout the term, with priority given to the lectures. Question types may include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, and/or essay. If you miss the final exam due to circumstances beyond your control, you will need to apply for a Deferred Examination. More details about the final exam will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

Grades:

Please note that email requests to “bump up” a grade will not receive a reply.

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.

Retain copies of work submitted

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

Artificial Intelligence:

The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT to produce assessed content is not permitted.

Instructional & Conduct Offences:

Instructional offences include (among other activities): cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, 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:

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; 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.

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

Writing Assistance

If you feel you need assistance in improving your writing skills, you are encouraged to get in touch with the Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) at <https://carleton.ca/csas/>.

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/>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

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).

Student Life Services

Student Life Services, located in Room Nideyinàn 501, 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.

Student Mental Health

As a University 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. See for example <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>