

GEOG/ENST 1020A, People, Places, and Environments
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University
Fall 2026

Lecture: Friday, 9:35 am - 11:25 pm, Sept 11 – Dec 4, 2026

Instructor: Dr. Don Leffers
Office: Loeb A209
Office Hours: Mondays, 10:30 - 1:30 am
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Tutorials All students must attend the tutorial in which they are registered:

31739, Friday, 2:35 pm – 3:25 pm
31740, Friday, 3:35 pm – 4: 25 pm
31744, Monday, 9:35 am – 10:25 am
31746, Monday, 2:35 pm – 3:25 pm
31742, Monday, 6:05 pm – 6:55 pm
31743, Monday, 7:05 pm – 8:55 pm

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Brightspace Course Page: forthcoming

1. Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to human geography and examines the relationships between people, communities, society, and the natural environment at local to global scales. The course covers a wide range of themes related to the study of human geography and environmental studies, including but not limited to population change; cultural patterns; urbanization; and historical, economic, political, and environmental forces, including climate change, that shape human activity and experiences from place to place. The course also examines different approaches, methods, and tools used within the context of geographical research. Videos and case study material from different regions of Canada and around the world are used to illustrate key issues and complement readings and lecture materials.

2. Prerequisites

Prerequisites additional credit for GEOG 1001/ENST 1001 if taken before 2006/07.

3. Learning Outcomes

- To become familiar with a range of concepts and issues in human geography and environmental studies
- To develop an appreciation of the complex and dynamic nature of the linkages among people, places, and environments at a variety of spatial scales
- To develop analytical skills and the ability to apply course concepts relevant to the study of human geography and environmental studies

4. Text and Course Materials

Mercier, M. (2024): *Human Geography* (11th edition), Oxford University Press. This book is available for purchase at the Carleton University Library. Cost: \$124.95 for softcover; \$68.99 for eBook (180-day access).

Supplementary course materials will be provided on Brightspace

5. Course Calendar

Unit	Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter*	Tutorials
1	Sept 11	Introduction to Human Geography	1	No tutorials (following a Friday schedule)
2	Sept 18	Ways of Knowing and Doing Human Geography and Environmental Studies	Parts of 7	First tutorial (Unit 1) starts
3	Sept 25	Environment and Society	2	Unit 2 tutorial
4	Oct 2	Globalization	3	Unit 3 tutorial
5	Oct 9	Economic Geography	Parts of 5, 12	Unit 4 tutorial
6	Oct 16	Political Geography and Geopolitics	8	Unit 5 tutorial
7	Oct 23	Cultural Geography; Midterm on Units 1-6	Part of 6 & 7	Unit 6 tutorial: Monday tutorials are on Nov 2
Fall break	Oct 30	No Class		No Tutorials
8	Nov 6	Geographies of Food	11	Unit 7 tutorial
9	Nov 13	Urban Geography I	9	Unit 8 tutorial
10	Nov 20	Urban Geography II	10	Unit 9 tutorial
11	Nov 27	Population Geography	4	Unit 10 tutorial
12	Dec 4	Why Geography Matters: Conclusions and Review	TBA	Unit 11 tutorial: Last tutorial on Monday Dec 7

** In addition to readings from the textbook, most weeks will also include short articles, videos, or websites posted on Brightspace*

Drop Date

As per the CU Calendar, the last day in the term to withdraw from a course with fee adjustment is September 30, 2026.

6. Evaluation

Assignment	Weight	Description
Tutorial activities	5 x 10%	Tutorials include five short in-class activities or quizzes
Midterm in-class exam	25%	A midterm exam (multiple choice and short answer) covering material from the first half of the course will be held in the second part of the week 7 class
Final exam during the exam period	25%	The final exam (multiple choice and short answer) will mainly cover the last part of the course

Assessment Criteria

The midterm and final exams will include material from the required readings and class lectures, including audio-visual materials. They will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The tutorial activities and quizzes provide the opportunity to apply key methods and concepts introduced in the lectures, readings, and tutorials. Quizzes will be short (10 questions) and in multiple choice and true/false format. Students should come to tutorial sessions having done the required reading and ready to participate in class activities. Please bring your textbook to tutorial sessions, as you may need to refer to it to complete activities. While the instructor has designed the activities, the TAs are responsible for organizing and running the tutorial sessions, for providing assistance during their office hours, and for grading assignments.

Tutorial quizzes represent individual work completed on an independent basis. Most tutorial activities will be completed in groups. Teaching assistants will mark the quizzes and activities and post grades on Brightspace. Students are responsible for checking their grades on Brightspace. Any questions regarding assigned grades must take place in written form (i.e., email) within 10 days after the mark has been posted. For help with Brightspace, contact the Information Technology Service Desk (ITS) at its.service.desk@carleton.ca.

Academic Standing

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+ = 57-59	F <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	

The instructor may adjust course grades at the end of the term. 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.

7. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Students may use AI tools for basic word processing functions, including grammar and spell checking (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, Copilot). It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. Students may not use AI to generate content and submit it as their own work. If you have questions about a specific usage of AI, please consult your instructor or TA. 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, layout and flow of ideas. 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 the support of AI.

8. Statement on Academic Integrity

All students must follow Carleton University's Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>. Carleton University has clear and firm policies regarding instructional and 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 inappropriate use of AI.

Plagiarism is one kind of instructional offense. 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.

9. 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/>.

The following resources are also available:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus)

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- 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/>
- 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>

10. 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).

11. Campus Resources for Student Success and Engagement

Academic Advising Centre, <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>: help with study skills and providing information about academic rules and academic planning

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS), <https://carleton.ca/csas/>: student support with writing, peer tutoring, and advice

Office of Student Affairs, <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/>: provides support in the areas of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Supporting Students in Distress, Substance Use Health, and Student Mental Health

MacOdem Library, <https://library.carleton.ca/services/services-undergraduate-students>: help with group study space, accessing course reserves, research and citation skills, use of AI tools for research

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>: your own student-run organization hosting various programs and service centres (Carleton Disability Awareness Centre [CDAC]), Gender & Sexuality Resource Centre [GSRC], Mawandoseg Centre, Racialized & International Student Experience [RISE], the Wellness Centre, and the Women's Centre

Carleton University Geography, Geomatics, and Environmental Studies Student Association (CUSEGA), <https://www.cugesga.org/>: helps students connect with the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and other students in their program