

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG 2200: GLOBAL CONNECTIONS, FALL 2026 [Section A]¹

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Lectures: Mon. & Wed., 10:05 to 11:25am, room TBA

Instructor: Pablo Mendez

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

STUDENTS REGISTERING FOR GEOG 2200 MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- if you wish to take the course in person and you expect not to miss more than three lectures during the term, you may register in Section A.
- if you wish to take the course online, or if you know you would need to miss more than three lectures if you were to register in section A, please register in Section T instead. Section T is an online asynchronous version of this course.

Regardless of what section you register in, you will need to write an *in-person* final exam. For this reason, this course is not suitable for remote students.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FIRST LECTURE WILL BE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
(THERE WILL BE NO LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9).

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, often paradoxical, and sometimes 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.

¹ There are some differences in the course outlines for Sections A and T. Please make sure to use the appropriate course outline throughout the term.

Learning Outcomes

In this course you will gain a geographic understanding of the concept of global connections as an economic, political, environmental and cultural process. 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 global actors and the roles they play in the uneven process known as globalization.

Attendance

If you register in Section A you are expected to attend two lectures every week (Mondays and Wednesdays). If you have scheduling issues that would require you to miss class on more than three occasions, please register in Section T instead. Section T is the asynchronous online version of this course, and as such it provides more flexibility to students whose schedule does not fit with the attendance requirements described in this outline.

E- MAILING THE INSTRUCTOR:

It is important to include the course code and section (ie, GEOG 2200 Section A) in the subject line of all emails you send me, to prevent your message from being automatically redirected to my spam mailbox (you may not receive a reply if you fail to follow these instructions).

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.

The textbook is available for sale at <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/the-fair-trade-handbook>; it is listed at \$28, but this price may change. Accessing the digital version is allowed, but to improve comprehension and retention I encourage you to use a hard copy if possible.

The syllabus and additional information and materials for the course will be available without cost through the Brightspace Course Management System or Carleton University's ARES system. You must access your Brightspace account by going to: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/>

Evaluation

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Quizzes	40%
Reading comprehension activity	5%
Term project	10%
In-person final exam	45%

Quizzes: You will be required to complete four quizzes during the term (September 28, November 2, November 25, and December 9). There will be no lecture on days when there is a quiz, and you will need to submit your answers by the end of the scheduled class time (unless you have been granted official accommodation). You will write the quizzes online (campus presence not required). You must work alone and submit your own answers. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT to produce assessed content is not permitted. Note that the quizzes may require you to consult the textbook, and will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or long-answer questions. Quizzes will not be cumulative. More details about the quizzes (including information about late submissions and extensions) will be provided in lecture and posted on Brightspace.

Reading comprehension activity: This activity will take place on November 11 and it will consist of completing a reading related to the course themes and answering a set of questions about it. You will complete the activity online (campus presence not required). You must work alone and submit your own answers. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT to produce assessed content is not permitted. Question types will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or long-answer. More details about the reading comprehension activity (including information about late submissions and extensions) will be provided in lecture and posted on Brightspace.

Term project: You will write a term project on a topic you will select from of a list that will be provided by the instructor on September 23. The project will be due on December 11 at 23:59. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT to produce assessed content is not permitted. More details about the term project (including information about late submissions and extensions) will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

In-person final exam: The date of the exam will be announced by the University in October. You must attend this exam in person at Carleton's main Ottawa campus. Question types will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or long answer. Note that for final exams, only official deferrals petitioned through the Registrar's Office can be honoured (see the following webpage for details: <http://carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/>). More details about the final exam will be provided in class and posted on Brightspace.

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. You can access the grading system in this course at: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/grading/>

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.

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 in-person, telephone, or teleconference appointment. It is important to include the course code and section (ie, **GEOG 2200 Section A**) in the subject line of all emails you send me, to prevent messages from being automatically redirected to my spam mailbox. Do not include any other text besides the course code and section in the subject line of your message. Please be aware that you may not receive a response if you fail to follow these instructions.

Artificial Intelligence:

For ethical, environmental, pedagogical, and mental health reasons, the use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT on any 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:

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/>