GEOGRAPHY*4880: Contemporary Geographic Thought
University of Guelph, Winter 2021

Synchronous Activities Scheduled Tues/Thurs, 10-11:30am Eastern Time (note YELLOW HIGHLIGHTING throughout)

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Silver, PhD
Pronouns: she/her
Email: j.silver@uoguelph.ca
One-on-one Phone or Video Chat: by appointment (at least 2-3 days advance notice required)

Teaching Assistant: Alesandros (Alex) Glaros
Pronouns: he/him
Email: aglaros@uoguelph.ca

Description:
GEOG*4880 is a capstone course for BA GEOG majors and it explores the origins and evolution of contemporary geographic thought. The core of the course builds around major thinkers, concepts and analytical lenses in geography. The course also encourages students to reflect on their undergraduate degree and to examine the relevance and significance of geographical knowledge to society.

Course Objectives:
The course is designed to have students bring together what they have learned during their undergraduate degree and to reflect on what it might mean to be ‘a geographer’. By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of historical and contemporary geography (especially key contemporary thinkers and conceptual lenses);
- examine, assess, and critically discuss key scholarly contributions of geography;
- construct a logical, well-supported, and convincing argument;
- demonstrate mastery of skills in written and oral presentation; and,
- demonstrate enhanced skills in professionalism and the application of analytical lenses.

Required Textbook:

Territorial Acknowledgement
Acknowledging the territory on which we learn and work honours the relationship between lands/waters and the Indigenous ancestors and stewards of them. This acknowledgement is adapted from the University of Guelph Aboriginal Resource Centre and Student Life:

“The University of Guelph rests on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron people. We therefore acknowledge the Attawandaron people and offer our respect to Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as the university and community strive to strengthen our relationships with them. We also recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land. The Dish with One Spoon Covenant is a peace agreement made between Indigenous nations before the Europeans arrived. It characterizes our collective responsibility to each other and Mother Earth - we should take only what we need, leave enough for others and keep the dish clean.”
University of Guelph Policy and Disclaimer Statements Regarding Covid-19

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the University of Guelph COVID-19 website and circulated by email. The U of G COVID-19 website can be found here. In the case of student illness, the University will not require verification (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.

Class Schedule

As you read the weekly class schedule, please note: there will be no in-person meetings and students will engage with the prof and each other through email, discussion boards, scheduled synchronous meetings, and pre-recorded video. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with the weekly schedule; this includes reading each week carefully, ensuring you have accessed and engaged all content, completed the associated ‘student responsibilities’, and stay on track for the course assignments/assessments.

The university registrar’s office has scheduled this class for Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10-11:30am Eastern Time; students are expected to be available for the synchronous online activities highlighted in yellow below. In most circumstances, including students in different time zones, alternatives and accommodations will not be readily available. Contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) or Prof. Silver immediately if there are constraints that will impact your ability to participate in synchronous sessions and/or engage in the content.

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<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPIC, CONTENT, STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 11-15</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC:</strong> Course introduction, information &amp; planning</td>
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<td><strong>CONTENT:</strong></td>
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<td>• Course Syllabus and Assignments</td>
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<td>• Prof. Silver’s video/slides</td>
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<td><strong>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong></td>
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<td>• Watch: Prof. Silver’s video</td>
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<td>Jan 18-22</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC:</strong> Histories of Geography</td>
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<td><strong>CONTENT:</strong></td>
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<td>• Textbook Chapter 1</td>
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<td>• Highly recommended: take notes on the readings and video/slides for quick reference during open-book QUIZ 1 (scheduled for January 26 from 10-11am Eastern Time)</td>
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<td>• Optional: attend synchronous ‘meet and greet’ on Thursday, January 21 starting at 10:00am</td>
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| Jan 25-29 | **TOPIC:** Key thinkers in Geography I  
**CONTENT:**  
- Prof. Silver’s video/slides  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
- Quiz 1 (15%): synchronous, open book, 15 questions (covering ‘Histories of Geography’ content). Administered through CourseLink ‘quizzes’ on Tuesday, January 26 from 10-11:00am Eastern Time.  
- Watch: Prof. Silver’s video  
- Highly recommended: take notes on the readings and video/slides for quick reference during open-book QUIZ 2 (scheduled for February 9 from 10-11am Eastern Time) |
| Feb 1-5  | **TOPIC:** Key thinkers in Geography II  
**CONTENT:**  
- Prof. Silver’s video/slides  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
- Watch: Prof. Silver’s video  
- Highly recommended: take notes on the readings and video/slides for quick reference during open-book QUIZ 2 (scheduled for February 9 from 10-11am Eastern Time)  
- 9am on Wednesday, February 3: sign-up for seminar selection opens in CourseLink discussion forums; first come, first served and a maximum of 7 individual students may select a seminar topic/place. If you do not sign-up by 5pm on Friday, Feb. 5, Prof. Silver will assign you a seminar topic/place. |
| Feb 8-12 | **TOPIC:** Reading seminars and case studies (what are they and how to do them well)  
**CONTENT:**  
- Prof. Silver’s video/slides  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
- Quiz 2 (15%): Synchronous, open book, 15 questions (covering ‘Key Thinkers in Geography I and II’ content). Administered through CourseLink ‘quizzes’ on Tuesday, February 9 from 10-11:00am Eastern Time.  
- Watch: Prof. Silver’s video  
- By 5pm on Wednesday, February 10: students must sign-up in appropriate CourseLink discussion forum to either ‘record my seminar with TA Alex’ OR to ‘record my own’. If you do not sign-up for one or the other by 5pm on Weds., Feb. 10, it will be assumed you plan to record your own seminar.  
- Optional: students who sign up and record seminar with TA Alex may attend synchronous ‘meet and greet’ with him on Thursday, Feb. 12 starting at 10:00am Eastern Time |
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<td>Feb 15-19</td>
<td><strong>READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Highly recommended: watch TA Alex’s ‘how-to’ guide video on developing and recording the seminar presentation</td>
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<td>Feb 22-26</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC:</strong> Student seminar tech and recording week&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>CONTENT:</strong> None&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Either deliver your seminar to TA Alex during scheduled meeting OR record your own and upload to Courselink Dropbox. <strong>ALL videos must be recorded by TA Alex or uploaded to Courselink Drobpox by 11:30am Eastern Time on Thursday, February 26; thereafter, a 20%/day late penalty applies.</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 1-5</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC:</strong> Student seminar videos: ‘Place’ &amp; University of Guelph Campus&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>CONTENT:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Textbook Chapter 9&lt;br&gt;• Student seminar videos&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Read: Chapter 9&lt;br&gt;• Watch: student seminar videos&lt;br&gt;• Take notes/work on your learning portfolio entry for this seminar</td>
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<td>Mar 8-12</td>
<td><strong>TOPIC:</strong> Student seminar videos: ‘Scale’ &amp; St. Jacob’s Market&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>CONTENT:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Textbook Chapter 12&lt;br&gt;• Student seminar videos&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Read: Chapter 12&lt;br&gt;• Watch: student seminar videos&lt;br&gt;• Take notes/work on your learning portfolio entry for this seminar</td>
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| Mar 15-19  | **TOPIC**: Student seminar videos: ‘Globalization’ & Eaton Centre  
**CONTENT**:  
- Textbook Chapter 19  
- Student seminar videos  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**:  
- Read: Chapter 19  
- Watch: student seminar videos  
- Take notes/work on your learning portfolio entry for this seminar                                                                                                                                 |
| Mar 22-26  | **TOPIC**: Student seminar videos: ‘Space’ & Pearson International Airport  
**CONTENT**:  
- Textbook Chapter 5  
- Student seminar videos  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**:  
- Read: Chapter 5  
- Watch: student seminar videos  
- Take notes/work on your learning portfolio entry for this seminar                                                                                                                                 |
| Mar 29 – Apr 2 | **TOPIC**: Student seminar videos: ‘Nature’ & Guelph Lake Conservation Area  
**CONTENT**:  
- Textbook Chapter 17  
- Student seminar videos  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**:  
- Read: Chapter 17  
- Watch: student seminar videos  
- Take notes/work on your learning portfolio entry for this seminar                                                                                                                                 |
| Apr 5-9   | **TOPIC**: Course conclusion and perfecting your ‘seminar self-assessment and learning portfolio’ project  
**CONTENT**:  
- TBA via Courselink announcement and/or email on or around March 27  
**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**:  
- TBA via Courselink announcement and/or email on or around March 27  
- Optional: attend synchronous ‘end of semester’ meeting to say farewell to the academic year! Starts at 10:00am Eastern Time on Thursday, April 8 |
Tuesday, April 13
Seminar Self-Assessment and Portfolio Due
UPLOAD AS SINGLE DOCUMENT TO COURSELINK DROPBOX BY 11:59pm

STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED AS FOLLOWS:

**Quiz 1 (Jan. 26) and Quiz 2 (Feb. 9): 15% + 15% = 30%**
There will be two open-book quizzes, administered over Courserlink that test students on ‘histories of geography’ and ‘key thinkers’ content. Each quiz will have 15 questions posed in the styles of multiple choice, true/false and fill in the blank. The quizzes will be synchronous and 60 minutes total, opening at 10am and closing at 11am Eastern Time. If you are registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) for extra test time, please contact them immediately and inform them about these quizzes/dates.

**Student seminar/video (Feb. 26): 30%**
Students will create, present and video record a 20-minute seminar. Each seminar will overview that week’s assigned textbook reading, overview history and background information on the corresponding case study listed in the syllabus, and conclude by reflecting on the seminar-style question for that topic/place posed by Prof. Silver in the assignment guidelines document. The videos will be posted to Courserlink for your classmates to watch; you will all learn from each other’s work, using information and ideas to inform your seminar portfolio (see next).

**Seminar self-assessment & seminar portfolio (Apr. 13): 10% (self-assessment) + 30% (learning portfolio) = 40%**
This assignment is equivalent in length/effort to a major project or term paper and builds off of everyone’s seminar videos. To complete the self-assessment, students will fill in a template where they report how many classmate seminar videos they have watched, evaluate how they engaged with information in the videos, report if/how they completed the weekly readings and evaluate the degree to which they made and kept an organizational plan through the second half of the course. To complete the seminar portfolio, students will write 500-750 word answers to each of the five seminar-style questions posed by Prof. Silver in the student seminar/video assignment document. Students will combine these two elements into a single document with a cover page, table of contents and upload it to Courserlink Dropbox in time for the deadline.

**INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

**Video and Audio Recordings.** Video content, slides and audio recordings developed for this course by Prof. Silver are her intellectual property. Likewise, video content, slides and audio recordings developed for this course by enrolled students are their intellectual property. Students are welcome to cite them in assignments and discuss them with classmates and other students. However, video content, slides and audio recordings developed for this course are not intended for circulation outside of the course and permission is not granted for students to permanently save, post or publicly share them.

**Academic Integrity.** Students are expected to undertake this course with honesty and integrity, and to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Refer to the Academic Calendar and the university policies
below. If you still have uncertainty about how to avoid plagiarism, complete the U of G tutorial (see here: www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/) and/or see the TA or instructor for further guidance. Plagiarism and other types of misconduct will not be tolerated, and any instances will be treated seriously.

**Communication.** Please check your university email account and the 'news' section of the CourseLink page frequently (ideally at least once every 1-2 days). Any important information arising throughout the semester will be communicated by these means and the university mandates that students must check them. The instructor and TA will do their best to respond to emails within 2 working days. Emails sent after 3pm on Friday will not be responded to until at least the following Monday, and questions that are answered in course documents will receive short replies only (i.e., see course syllabus). Please use proper punctuation and professional language when emailing the instructor or TA.

**Assignment submission, grading and grade reviews, and monitoring your CourseLink gradebook.** It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they are clear on when, where, and in what format assessments are due, and in the case of assignments and activities to be submitted via CourseLink, to double-check that the upload has worked successfully and that uploaded files are not corrupt.

It is the student’s responsibility to check their CourseLink class gradebook weekly to ensure that all grades are entered and accurate. If any concerns arise about assignment grades or grading, the student must immediately contact the instructor. Requests to review or revisit assignment and presentation grades must be made within 10 days after they are released in the gradebook; thereafter, it is likely that the instructor will deny requests and that the grade will stand as final.

If a student would like to request an extension, it is their responsibility to contact the instructor directly and with as much advance notice as possible. To do so, students should send an email or request a meeting to discuss generalities of the situation and to reach agreement about the length of extension. Following the University of Guelph COVID-19 policies, verification (doctor's notes) will not be required to accompany requests for extension in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021.

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH STANDARD POLICY STATEMENTS**

**E-mail Communication.** As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly. E-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement. When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

**Drop Date.** Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Copies of out-of-class assignments.** Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.
**Accessibility.** The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

**More information**

**Academic Misconduct.** The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

**Please note:** Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Recording of Materials.** Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources.** The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.