GPHY 101: Human Geography

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Contact Time | 2 x 1hr lectures & 1.5 learning lab/week
Format | Lectures and tutorials based on key texts and active engagement with geographical concepts.
Class Assessment | 1. 30%: Learning labs and participation
2. 40%: Term project on global commodity chains
   [10% route map; 10% proposal; 20% essay]
3. 30%: Midterm and final examinations

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course takes a place and space-based approach to social problems widely considered important, including energy, the environment, economy, urbanism, social division, public space, racism, colonialism, spatial justice, and migration. We will work towards understanding the forces that make the world we live in and how we remake this world through our actions. The unique feature of this course lies in its active grounding of global issues in local and hands-on projects. You will learn about where you are here in Kingston just as you learn about our changing global context.

Together, GPHY 101 and GPHY 102 (Physical Geography) are the entry points into both B.A. and B.Sc. programmes in the Department of Geography and Planning.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Apply a place and space-based approach to discuss and analyze complex social problems.
2. Identify the causes of fundamental inequalities that shape our world (e.g. colonial legacies, distribution of resources, health disparities, etc.) at multiple scales.
3. Develop a geographical imagination, learning more about the place of Kingston and the welcoming geographical community here at Queen’s.
4. Explore issues, ideas, artifacts, and events through active listening, discussion with peers, critical reading and creative research.

COURSE TOPICS
1. Colonialism, imperialism, and settler colonialism
2. International divisions of labour
3. Environmental racism
4. Food security and diversity
5. Population and migration
6. Place and cultural geography
7. Cities and global urbanism

SELECTED COURSE READINGS