Course Coordinator: Dr. Betsy Donald
Email: betsy.donald@queensu.ca
Office: Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room D307
Phone: 533-6040

Contact Time: 1.0 hour lecture & 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
2. 35% Relational Geography Research Exercise
   [5% proposal; 10% route map; 20% essay-letter]
3. 35% Exam Warm-up and Exam
   [10% weekly online quizzes; 5% midterm quiz; 20% final exam]

COURSE OVERVIEW

This blended 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. In this class we will work to understand the forces that make the world we live in and remake by our actions.

We will introduce you to geographical skills and insights that tackle global problems and contribute to everyday well-being. 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.

The unique feature of this course lies in its active grounding of global issues in local and hands-on fieldwork. You will learn about where you are here in Kingston just as you learn about our changing global context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

COURSE TOPICS

1) International division of labour
2) Spatial justice, health and the economy
3) Food security and diversity
4) Cities and social division
5) Energy, resources and sustainability
6) Historical geographies of colonialism
7) People and nature
8) Place-making and identity
9) Population movement, diaspora and immigration

COURSE TEXT