

GEOGRAPHY 3461G

Land Use and Development Issues

Course Syllabus

Winter Term 2016

Instructor: Douglas Rivet

Office: Social Science Centre 2333

Office Hours: Tuesday 2pm – 3pm or appointment

Email: drivet2@uwo.ca

Lectures: Tuesday, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Room 1059, Social Science Centre

Labs: Tuesday, 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Room 1425, Social Science Centre

Description: A critical examination of the current land use and development issues in which students are required to actively participate in exercises and discussions.

Prerequisite: Third or Fourth year academic status

Special Note: “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from the course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites”

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course deals with some of the most crucial issues facing North American cities in the 21st century. Topics include urban sprawl, deindustrialization, public transit and accessibility, population health, urban renewal and heritage preservation. The course objective is not only to describe the origin and extent to which these contemporary problems exist, but also to examine how urban planners and policy makers are currently addressing (or not addressing) them and to explore alternative solutions.

To enrich the classroom discussion each topic will be explored using heavily-illustrated case studies. As most case studies will be focusing on crucial urban issues at a local and regional level, they will often align with current events unfolding in today’s large selection of media. We will use the city of London as our “laboratory” exploring ideas, raising hypotheses, and diving in to the. In addition to lectures delivered by the instructor, class discussion will revolve around assigned readings, videos, special guest lectures, student presentations, and relevant supplementary material.

Each lecture period will be conducted in the form of a seminar where active participation is required to make the course a success. This participation is critical to your final mark. Our goal for this class is to create an open environment in which each member of the class can feel free to share personal thoughts, explore opposing views, or debate the ideas of others in an intelligent and respectful manner.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no single textbook that you are required to purchase for this course. Students will be required to read a variety of journal articles, book chapters, government reports, newspaper articles, or blogs dependent upon the topic to be discussed during each week. Required readings will be carefully chosen to supplement topics to be discussed in class. Optional readings will also be identified for your benefit, should you wish to explore a topic further. Required readings will be assigned at least one week in advance to the class in which they will be required.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Materials
January 5	Syllabus/Introduction/Project	
January 12	Urban Design and Revitalization	Lab #1 - Field Methods 1
January 19	Built Environment and Health	Lab #1 - Due
January 26	Heritage Preservation and Development	Lab #2 - Heritage Redevelopment
February 2	Transportation Systems	Lab #2 - Due
February 9	Mid-Term	Proposal Due
February 16	Reading Week	
February 23	Geographic Information Systems	Lab #3 - Introduction
March 1	Geographic Information Systems	Lab #3 - Due
March 8	Role of Policy and Decision Makers	
March 15	Presenting to Policy and Decision Makers & How to Give a Great Presentation	
March 22	Review/In class help	
March 29	Presentations	
April 5	Presentations	Research Paper - Due

EVALUATION METHODS

Evaluation of your performance during this course will be based on the following:

Assignment #1: Research Proposal	10%
Assignment #2: Research Paper	45%
Research Presentation	10%
Labs and Seminar Participation	15%
Mid-Term Exam	20%

Additional details on grading will be included in the handouts for the assignments and presentation. Due dates are outlined on the Class Scheduled. Please see the official “Late Policy” described below. Attendance will be taken each week. Please note, to achieve marks for “Lab and Seminar Participation” not only must you attend class you must also contribute to class discussions and complete lab exercises. Lab exercises will be due within one week after they are assigned.

OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATION

I am eager to help with any concerns you may have with the course and will be available after each lecture to answer questions. My preference is for face-to-face communication, though I will happily respond to short questions through e-mail. When sending an e-mail please remember to put Geography 3461G at the beginning of the email header. Please do not expect an instant reply. I will do my best to answer promptly though the time frame may range. Be assured that I will answer as soon as I am able to do so. I do not read e-mails either on Saturday or Sunday.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of cell phones and the sending/receiving of text messages during lectures is strictly forbidden –anyone violating this rule will be asked to leave. No electronic devices will be allowed during presentations and examinations.

WESTERN’S SPECIAL EXAMINATION POLICY

A special examination is any examination other than the regularly scheduled exam. Special exams will be allowed only on receipt of medical documentation verifying a serious illness that kept the student from writing the exam as originally scheduled. Such documentation is strictly confidential and kept in the student’s file. In the case of missing a final exam for documented medical reasons, a special exam will be set within 30 days.

Special exams will not be granted for occasions such as employment interviews, weddings, bar mitzvahs, and family reunions, vacations, misreading an exam timetable, or oversleeping. Neither will special exams be granted in order to facilitate transportation arrangements, such as booking flights for home or holidays. It is the policy to discourage informal arrangements by faculty which circumvent this regulation. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed exams must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home

Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

FINAL MARKS

The mark awarded by an instructor in a course at Western is only final when students receive it from the Registrar, and even then they can be changed on receipt by the Registrar of a Marks Revision Form. Marks are not finalized until the department chair has signed off.

MENTAL HEALTH

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/

WESTERN'S COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student with documented special needs should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss any necessary accommodations to make this course a positive learning environment.

WESTERN SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

GEOGRAPHY COUNSELING SERVICES

Students in need of counselling about the geography program and related matters should contact Undergraduate Assistant and Program Advisor Ms. Angelica Lucaci in the Department of Geography. Angelica Lucaci: alucaci@uwo.ca (x. 86052).