

GEOG 9114A – Urban Studies

Fall 2021

1. Course Information

1.1. Timing and Location:

Tuesday 10am-12pm Eastern

Format of Delivery: HYBRID FORMAT (**TENTATIVE – to be discussed with students**)

The course will begin as a face-to-face seminar in SSC2333, but we will have most seminars outside (weather permitting). Depending on student wishes (and changing public health restrictions), we will also meet synchronously via ZOOM.

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Jason Gilliland

Office: SSC 2432

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 519-661-2111 x81239

Email: jgillila@uwo.ca

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. 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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Please visit the "[Accessibility at Western](#)" website for more information.

2. Calendar Description

An interdisciplinary critical examination of the frameworks and research methods used in urban health geography and cognate disciplines through applied research projects that focus on the development of healthy and vibrant cities. (2.0 lecture hours, 0.5 course)

3. Enrollment

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Geography and Environment, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

4. Textbook

None. Selected readings and resources will be assigned throughout course.

5. Course Objectives

This seminar course aims to equip students with practical skills needed for academic and professional research on topics related to urban environments, particularly healthy cities. This course will improve students' research, critical thinking, and communication skills. It is also designed to help students strengthen their scientific writing skills for a diversity of audiences (i.e., academic, government, public). This course will be useful for students who seek a career which requires evidence-based decision-making and policy formation.

6. Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Explain and conduct the multiple steps required for completing a *rapid review* of existing evidence to fill knowledge gaps, as well as recommend and develop evidence-based policy and practice for urban studies and public health;
- 2) Explain and conduct the steps required for completing a *gap analysis* to identify and evaluate existing policies and programs, as well as recommended policies and programs for developing healthy cities;
- 3) Generate an *academic research paper* or *professional report for key knowledge users and decision-makers* which is based on scientific evidence and includes evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice; and

7. Evaluation

Evaluation Component	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Proposal	5%	Week 5
Academic Manuscript <u>or</u> Professional Report	75%	Last class
Active Participation	20%	Throughout

Participation is mandatory. Your 'active participation' grade is based on a combination of your class participation, a final presentation of your research, and your performance leading at least one group discussion during the term at a time determined in collaboration with your professor.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

8. Course Timeline

Note: Schedule is tentative and is subject to change based on expressed student needs.

Weeks	Topic
1	Introduction and course content discussion
2-5	Various seminars (student chosen topics), discussion of research paper topics, how to write proposal
5-6	Group discussion of proposals
7-11	Writing effective academic papers, professional reports, funding applications
12-13	Final Project Presentations and Discussions

9. University Policy Regarding Illness

9.1. Illness

Please visit the link to the university policy for more information.

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=-> Page 12.

If you feel that you have a medical or personal concern that is interfering with your work, you should contact your Instructor, Graduate Program Administrator, Supervisor, or SGPS.

9.2. Attendance

It is expected that students will attend all classes. The professor does not provide access to lecture notes. Students are encouraged to obtain missed lecture notes from a fellow student.

10. Scholastic Discipline for Graduate Students

For the complete policy and regulations visit the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) website

11. Procedures for Appealing Academic Evaluations

Students may appeal an academic decision or ruling in accordance with the appeal procedures set out below. Students have a right to appeal to their graduate programs and, if unsuccessful, to the Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies). Some decisions may be appealed further to the Senate Review Board Academic. The Vice-Provost's rulings in academic matters are final unless overturned or modified on appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA).

For the complete policy and regulations visit the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) website

12. Support Services

12.1. Support Services

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

12.2. Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

12.3. Short Absences

If you miss a class due to minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or exam. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow the missed lecture notes from a classmate.

12.4. Extended Absences

If you expect to be away from class for an extended amount of time, please make prior arrangements with your course instructors and/or supervisor.

For the complete policy on registration visit the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) website.

12.5. Academic Concerns

If you are in academic difficulty, it is strongly recommended that you see your Graduate Program Administrator, Supervisor, or SGPS.

13. Important Dates: (*Tentative: to be discussed with students*)

September 14: First Class

Oct 12: Proposal Due (~week 5)

Nov 5: Fall Reading Week (No classes)

Dec 7: Last Class, Final Paper Due

14. Other Information

For a list of Graduate Regulations please visit the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) website

For The University of Western Ontario Senate Regulations, please see the [Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policies](#)

Email Policies

Please respect the fact that Professors receive multiple emails from students and will deal with those emails in a fair, organized and timely manner. Please ensure the subject line contains the name, number and section of the course in question.