

GEOG 2162B – Planning Sustainable Cities

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2026

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 5	February 14-22	April 9	April 10-11	April 12-30

Tuesday January 13, 2026: Last day to add a second-term half course

Monday February 16, 2026: Family Day

Monday March 30, 2026: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Friday April 3, 2026: Good Friday



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Roza Tchoukaleyska	rtchouka@uwo.ca	Wednesdays from 12-2pm

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Luis Patricio	lbritopa@uwo.ca	TBA
Manuel Spiller	Mspille6@uwo.ca	TBA



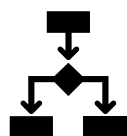
☒ Office hours will be held in person

☒ Teaching Assistants are available for meetings by appointment, please email to schedule a time or with questions.

☒ Office hours for Roza Tchoukaleyska will be held in SSC 2413, these are drop-in hours with no sign-up required.

2. Calendar Description

This course introduces students to the key principles of community planning. It considers the social, environmental, and economic facets of urban sustainability, and uses case studies from Canada and internationally to demonstrate how planning processes can transform cities.



2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): None

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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 a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

3. Textbook

☒ The required textbook for this course is:

Thomas, R. (Ed). (2016). *Planning Canada: A case study approach*. Oxford University Press.



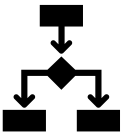
The textbook can be found at the Western Bookstore; it is available as a printed book (\$142.80) or as an e-book (\$60.00 for 180-day access): https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2025B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/GEO2162B

☒ Media articles, clips, and additional materials will be posted via the Course Readings section of OWL.

4. Course Objectives and Format

This course has the following objectives:

- Introduce urban planning as a process for supporting community, town, and regional development;
- Develop an understanding of how planning systems can be used to manage ecological, economic, and urban growth;
- Build your knowledge of regional planning debates and gain a new understanding of decision making at the City of London;
- Learn to interpret municipal plans and policy documents and further develop your critical analysis skills through report and essay writing.



☒ Missed work should be completed within 2 days of the assigned due date. Please see statement on assignment flexibility in Sections 8 and 9 below, and on the course Brightspace site.

All course material will be posted to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze real-world problems and policy applications using geographical concepts, skills and understanding.
- Identify, analyze and interpret spatial patterns and processes of urbanization, financial and economic aspects of urban development, and processes in urban systems and built environments.
- Spatial thinking, spatial analysis & spatial processes of human and/or environmental processes (e.g. cultural, social, political, economic, scientific)
- Critical and reflective reading, listening, thinking.



6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	January 7	Course introduction	(no assigned readings)
2	January 14	The planning process	1. Textbook: Chapter 1.0
3	January 21	The planning process & zoning activity (in-class) <i>(Introduction to Assignment 1)</i>	2. Textbook: Chapter 6.1 3. Professional publication: OPPI About Planning
4	January 28	Community engagement & the role of the planner	1. Textbook: Chapter 6.3 2. Professional publication: OPPI Case Studies
5	February 4	Growth management: Key tools DUE: Assignment 1	1. Textbook: Chapter 3.3 2. Media article: The Narwhal
6	February 11	Wicked Problems: Climate change adaptation	1. Textbook: Chapter 4.2 2. Podcast: Planet Money
	February 16-20	Spring Reading Week	N/A
7	February 25	Midterm Test	(no assigned readings)
8	March 4	<u>Class held online</u> (pre-recorded lecture) Urban redevelopment	1. Textbook: Chapter 5.2 2. Podcast: 99% Invisible
9	March 11	Multi-modal transport planning <i>(Introduction to Assignment 2)</i>	1. Textbook: Chapter 9.1 2. Podcast: CitySCOPE
10	March 18	Economic development & downtown vibrancy	1. Textbook: Chapter 8.3 2. Media: CBC News
11	March 25	Designing liveable cities DUE: Assignment 2	1. Textbook: Chapter 7.1 2. Media: The Toronto Star (Free via Brightspace Course Reserves)

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
12	April 1	Green infrastructure	1. Textbook: Chapter 3.1 2. Media: The Guardian
13	April 8	Course conclusion & exam review	(no assigned readings)

7. Communication



Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours

- ☒ A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- ☒ Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using the emails listed on page 1 of the syllabus
- ☒ For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- ☒ Emails will be monitored from Monday to Friday; standard response time is 24-48 hours, excluding weekends.

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Assignment 1	Short essay (submit on OWL)	15%	February 4 th
Midterm test	Short answer (held in-person)	25%	February 25 th
Assignment 2	Short report (submit on OWL)	25%	March 25 th
Final exam	Essay questions (held in-person)	35%	April TBD



The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

- ☒ All assignments are due on Brightspace at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- ☒ Assignment 1 and Assignment 2 use a flexible assessment approach. Details are outlined in Section 9 below and in the assignment sheets posted on Brightspace
- ☒ Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- ☒ Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin

- ☒ Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- ☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days
- ☒ The midterm is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course, and student seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. See Section 9 below for details.
- ☒ All assignments must be completed individually, and represent your own, original work. Section 13 of this syllabus includes information on academic integrity and the Scholastic Offences policy.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

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.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Formal Documentation Designation statement:

Assignment designated as requiring formal documentation: GEOG 2162 Midterm

Please note that this assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic

consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work: make-up midterm.

Flexibility statements

Assessment has flexible submission deadline: Assignment 1 and Assignment 2

Please note that because the submission deadline for Assignment 1 and Assignment 2 already includes flexibility in the form of a **48-hour submission window**, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: GEOG 2162B Midterm, to be held in-class on Wednesday, February 25th

Academic Consideration for Course Components with Flexible Deadlines

This course employs flexible deadlines for **Assignments 1 and 2**. The assignment deadlines can be found above in the course outline. For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 25% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

10. Make-up Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

12. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



13. 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](#).

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>).

14. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is unacceptable in this course. Students are encouraged to keep copies of assignment drafts, research notes, and outlines as a way of demonstrating their writing and thinking process.

15. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment 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. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

16. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

17. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

18. Important Dates

Monday January 5: Classes resume

Tuesday January 13: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 16: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 16-20: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Monday March 30: Last day to drop a second term half course

Thursday April 9: Classes end

April 10 and 11: Study days

April 12-30: Examination Period