

The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

# GEOGRAPHY 3461 F/G LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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## Geography 3461 F/G Land Use and Development Issues

### Course Outline - Fall 2013

#### Scheduling Information

Lectures are held Wednesday 2:30-4:30pm, in room **2333 SSC\***

Labs/Tutorials are held Wednesday 4:30-5:30pm, in room **1425 SSC\***

**\*Please consult course NEWS page for any changes in location**

#### Instructor Information

Instructor: **Dr. Jason Gilliland**

Telephone: 519.661.2111 ext.81239

Office Hours: **Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am, or by appointment**

Office Location: room 1403 SSC

Teaching Assistant: **Michael Clark (SSC 1411)**

TA Office Hours: **Friday 10:30-11:30am, or by appointment**

#### Calendar Description

*3461F/G Land Use and Development Issues.* Critical examination of current land use and development projects; students are required actively to participate in the discussions. Prerequisite: Third or fourth year status.

3 seminar hours, 0.5 course.

Official statement on prerequisites: "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 a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

#### Course Syllabus: Detailed Description

This course deals with some of the most crucial issues facing North American cities today, such as urban sprawl, deindustrialization, public transit and accessibility, population health, downtown renewal, and heritage preservation. The course

objective is not only to describe the origin and extent of contemporary land use and urban development problems, but also to examine how urban planners and policy makers are currently dealing (or not dealing) with various issues and to explore alternative solutions.

To enrich the classroom discussion, each lecture topic will be explored using heavily-illustrated case studies. Furthermore, since most case studies will deal with crucial urban issues at the local and regional level, they will often be ripped from the headlines of newspapers. In addition to lectures delivered by the instructor, class discussion will revolve around assigned readings, videos, special guest lectures, student presentations, and any other course materials that appear relevant. Each lecture period will be conducted in the form of a seminar and, as such, active participation is required from all students to make the course a success. In fact, your final grade depends on your participation. One of our collective goals should be to create an open environment in which we all can feel free to share our personal thoughts on relevant urban issues, and to explore, discuss, or debate the ideas of others in an intelligent and respectful manner.

During regularly scheduled lectures and tutorials, students will also occasionally join the instructor, TA, and key local professionals for a number of site visits within the city of London. Each site visit will be tied to lecture/reading material on a critical land use and development issue. As this is a course on urban studies, we will use the city of London as a "laboratory" for exploring ideas, raising hypotheses and gathering information for research projects.

By the end of this course, a student should be able to critically evaluate any existing or proposed land use or urban development project in terms of its suitability for a given environment, and to communicate their views and findings clearly and concisely in both oral and written form. Furthermore, in this course, students will develop the intellectual skills necessary to conduct an independent research project on an urban land use and development issue using appropriate concepts, theories, methods, and primary and secondary sources of information. Each student will apply these skills in the "real world" by carrying out a research project in an area of London, Ontario.

## Weekly Topics - Tentative Class Schedule 2013

The following is a general outline of the topics that will, more or less, be addressed in the course. This schedule may be altered slightly in response to student interests, to unforeseen circumstances, or to any important or fascinating urban land use and development issues that may arise during the term.

Date	Meeting Location	Topic
Sept 11	SSC2433	Introduction and Course Overview LAB: none this week
Sept 18	Downtown • Meet at Central Library (Dundas Street) Main entrance near Red Roaster Coffee Shop. Take #2 or #6 bus from campus.	Downtown (Re)Development Issues • Critical walking lecture on land use and development issues in downtown London with City of London, Planning Department and <i>Mainstreet London</i> LAB: Field work #1
Sept 25	SSC 2333	Heritage Preservation and Urban Development • Heritage Lecture on Campus, then Walking lecture on Built Heritage issues with Don Menard, Heritage Planner for City of London LAB: Field work #2
Oct 2	No Class this Week	Due to Geography 3000Y Field Camp
Oct 9	Old East Village Tour •We will meet at the Western	Revitalization of an Inner-City Corridor

	Fair Farmers' Market (corner of Dundas and Ontario Streets) at 3:05pm. Take #2 Dundas bus from campus, leaving Natural Science at 2:32pm or earlier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guided Exploration of Old East Village Business Improvement Area and Heritage District with representative from the OEVBIA</li> </ul> <b>LAB: Field work #3</b>
Oct 16	SSC 2333	<b>Linking Built Environment and Health</b> <b>LAB: GIS for Urban Studies in SDAL: Inputs</b>
Oct 23	SSC 2333	<b>Sprawl and Smart Growth</b> <b>LAB: GIS for Urban Studies in SDAL: Outputs</b> <b>*** Assignment # 1: Research Proposal Due today in class</b>
Oct 30	SSC 2333	<b>Designing better cities</b>  <b>LAB: No Lab today</b>
Nov 6	SSC 2333	<b>Topic TBA</b> <b>LAB: Exam Preparation</b>
Nov 13	SSC 2333	<b>Mid-Term Exam Today (1.5 hrs)</b> <b>LAB: supervised lab work in SDAL</b>
Nov 20	SSC 2333	<b>Topic TBA</b> Guest Speaker: TBA <b>LAB: How to do a great Presentation (SDAL)</b>
Nov 27	SSC 2333	<b>The "Great City Debate": Topic TBA</b> <b>*** Assignment # 2: Research Paper Due</b>
Dec 4	SSC 2333	<b>"Landscapes of London" Conference</b> <b>*** Project Presentations Today</b>

## Course Readings / Materials

There is no single textbook that you are required to purchase for this course. However, students are required to read approximately 30 pages – a variety of journal articles, book chapters, government reports, newspaper articles, blogs – each week. Required readings will be carefully chosen in order to expand upon the topics covered in class. Some optional readings will be identified for your benefit, should you wish to learn about a particular topic in more detail. Required readings will be assigned at least one week in advance of the class for which they are due. Students should regularly consult the web page for weekly readings and other important notices.

## Evaluation

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

**Assignment #1: Research Proposal - 10%**  
**Assignment #2: Research Paper - 45%**  
**Project Presentation - 10%**  
**Seminar and Lab Participation - 15%**  
**Mid-term Exam - 20%**

Further details on grading will be included in the handouts for the assignments and presentation. Due dates are outlined on the Schedule of Weekly Topics. Please see the official "late policy" below. Attendance will be taken each week; however, to achieve participation marks for "seminar and lab participation" you are not only

required to show up each week, but you must also contribute to class discussions and complete lab exercises. Lab exercises are due within one week after they are assigned.

## Policies on Late Assignments, Extensions, Plagiarism, Appeals

You are advised to read the course calendar to familiarize yourself with the University's regulations and procedures concerning regulations, grades, plagiarism, penalties, drops, adds, extensions, appeals and accommodation for medical absence.

Due dates are set with careful attention to course objectives and student workload. I have made an effort to compare due dates with those in other courses in the Department of Geography in order to minimize potential "overloading" of students on certain dates. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Assignments are to be handed into me, Dr. Gilliland, at the beginning of class on their due date(s), after which point a late penalty will be assessed. Late assignments will be strictly penalized: a deduction of 10% per day (including Saturday and Sunday) off the total grade for the assignment. (See statement on "Policies on Accommodation for Medical Illness" below). If a student is absent from the scheduled mid-term exam for **non-medical** reasons, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam, unless an alternative arrangement is made with the instructor before the scheduled exam.

Always hand in assignments directly to Dr. Gilliland, the TA (if we have one) or to an administrator in the Geography Main Office (Soc Sci 2432). For your sake, do not slip them under an office door! It is wise to keep digital and hard copy backups of your assignments.

Class attendance is mandatory. Please be respectful of the instructor and your fellow classmates. If you show up late (without prior notification or a valid excuse) on the class presentation days in particular, you will have marks deducted from your overall participation grade.

Should you feel that your grade is inaccurate or unfair, you do have the right to appeal your mark. Please be aware that marks may be raised or lowered through an appeal process. Please refer to the Western Calendar prior to doing so. Requests to have an assignment reevaluated must be submitted in writing to the instructor, Dr. Gilliland, within one week of receiving the graded assignment. In this written request for reappraisal the specifics of what you would like reexamined and the justification for doing so will be clearly and concisely presented. In an attempt to avoid such time-consuming and stressful procedures, I assure you that I reflect carefully upon every piece of work that I grade.

The mid term exam is "closed book". Likewise, no electronic devices are allowed in the exam room (e.g., calculators, laptops, cell phones, PDAs, and similar devices).

Plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable. Please avoid this potentially nasty experience and do your own work!

**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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

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>).

## Policies on Accommodation for Medical Illness

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth LESS than 10% of their final grade must submit documentation and meet with the instructor to determine if accommodation is warranted.

## 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.

## Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

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

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

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