

**COURSE OUTLINE  
GEOGRAPHY 3463F: HOUSING  
Fall 2015**

**Instructor:** Dr. M. Buzzelli

**Office:** Rm. 2429 SSC

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 9-11:30am

**Teaching Assistant:** N/A

**Office:** N/A

**Office Hours:** N/A

Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:20 am

**Room:** 2322E SSC “Pleva Room”

Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:00 am

**Room:** UCC 066, WALS

**Honours seminar on housing and neighbourhoods in the North American city**

The purpose of this course is to provide an advanced honours seminar on housing and neighbourhoods from a geographical perspective. Geographers and other social scientists as well as planning, design and associated engineering fields have a long-standing interest in housing and neighbourhoods. As the single most important durable good consumed by most households, we are interested in how housing is supplied, obtained and used. Overlaid on these interests is the geography of the market: because it is fixed in place, housing is characterised by its location perhaps more than any other feature and more than any other durable good. The urban housing market is necessarily a geographical market of neighbourhoods. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the variegated urban housing market that juxtaposes the seemingly unbounded life chances of affluent residents against high-rise social housing in poorly serviced neighbourhoods. The focus of this course is on how that residential geography comes to be, how it influences and reinforces the everyday lives and socioeconomic position of its residents and how the state influences these processes via policies and programmes.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Develop skills of critical thinking, oral and written communication
- Develop the ability to apply geographical concepts, skills and understanding to real-world problems and in a variety of careers and occupations
- Develop the ability to relate current trends to theories and methods in the study of housing and neighbourhoods
- Build capacity to carry out a study of a key housing/urban issue using relevant primary and secondary sources

**Prerequisite:** Third or fourth year status.

**Format of the course:** A combination of lectures, seminars and project sessions each week. Tuesday periods will be devoted primarily to seminars; Wednesdays to group-based meetings.

**Required and Recommended Reading:** Distributed via OWL

**Evaluation (late assignments deducted 10% per day):**

Group project proposal, 15%, due/presented mi-October

Term paper/project, 40%, due/presented last class of term

Seminar discussions, 25%, scheduled throughout term

Individual course summative reflection, 20%, due one week after the end of term

Students are required to attend all scheduled meetings. No scheduled times are optional.

**Course policies and rules**

**Academic dishonesty:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words.

Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

**Other policies**

1. University Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)
2. Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
3. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
4. Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off during class. If you bring one to class, be sure to turn it off or you will be asked to leave. No text messaging during class.
5. Email within Sakai, and/or office hours, are the best way to contact your instructor/TAs. The instructor does not use email outside of Sakai.

**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.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

**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://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

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

**Course schedule** (additional readings may be assigned)

This schedule refers to Tuesday meetings. Wednesdays will be reserved for group-based meetings.

Week	Lecture topic	Reading
1	Course introduction	
	Term assignment issued; seminars scheduled	
2	Housing in the North American city (slide show)	Bunting and Filion, 2010; Harris, 2006
	Assignment time and research help session	
3	Theoretical perspectives on housing and policy	Harris, 1999; Kemeny, 2006
4	Housing and public policy: financial markets come home	MacLennan, 2008; Carter and Polevychok, 2004
	Seminar Session	
5	Guest lecture - careers in housing	
	Library research help session	
6	The nature/characteristics of housing	CMHC, 2014 (a reference resource)
	Seminar session	
7	Housing supply and development	Buzzelli, 2004; Suttor, 2009
	Seminar session	
9	Residential demand, search and consumption	Badcock, 2002; Teixeira, 2008
	Seminar session	
10	Homelessness, affordability and need	Hulchanski, 2001; Berman et al., 2011
	Seminar session	
11	Residential segregation	Massey and Denton, 1993; Walks and Bourne, 2006
	Seminar session	
12	Green building and development	Cidell, 2009; Adams, 2004
	Seminar session (assignment time/remedial help)	
13	Housing and health	Howden-Chapman, 2004
	Seminar session	
14	Course wrap-up	

## **Reading list**

Adams, D. 2004. The changing regulatory environment for speculative housebuilding and the construction of core competencies for brownfield development. *Environment and Planning A* 36, 601-24.

Berman, H. et al., 2011. The Changing Face of Diversity in the Context of Homelessness in Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Health: Finding Truths — Creating Change, eds. Cheryl Forchuk, Rick Csiernik, Elsabeth Jensen. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Bunting, T and P Filion. 2010. Epochs of Canadian urban development, in T Bunting, P Filion and R Walker, *Canadian Cities in Transition* 4<sup>th</sup> ed.. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Buzzelli, M. 2004. Exploring regional firm-size structure in Canadian housebuilding. *Urban Geography*, 25 (3): 241–263.

CMHC 2012. *Canadian Housing Observer*. Ottawa: CMHC.

Carter, T., and C. Polevychok. 2004. *Housing Is Good Social Policy*. Ottawa: Canadian Policy Research Networks.

Julie Cidell (2009): Building Green: The Emerging Geography of LEED-Certified Buildings and Professionals, *The Professional Geographer*, 61:2, 200-215

Harris, R. 2006. "Housing. Dreams, Responsibilities, and Consequences," In Trudi Bunting and Pierre Filion, eds. *Canadian Cities in Transition*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Howden-Chapman P. 2004. Housing standards: A glossary of housing and health. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 58:162-8.

Hulchanski, D. 2001. A Tale of Two Canadas: Homeowners Getting Richer, Renters Getting Poorer. Toronto: University of Toronto Centre for Urban and Community Studies.

Kemeny, J. 2006. Corporatism and housing regimes. *Housing, Theory and Society* 23, 1, 1-18.

Maclennan, D 2008. Trunks, Tails, and Elephants: Modernising Housing Policies. *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 8:4, 423-440.

Massey D, Denton N. 1993. American apartheid: Segregation and the making of the underclass Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Suttor, G. 2009. *Rental paths from postwar to present: Canada compared*. Toronto: Cities Centre, University of Toronto.

Teixeira, Carlos (2008). "Barriers and Outcomes in the Housing Searches of New Immigrants and Refugees: A Case Study of "Black" Africans in Toronto's Rental Market", *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 23: 253-276

Walks R, Bourne L. 2006. Ghettos in Canada's cities? Racial segregation, ethnic enclaves and poverty concentration in Canadian urban areas. *Canadian Geographer* 50:273-97

## Additional Resources

The following is a selection of resources in the field of housing studies, all of which can be accessed via the Western library system or directly online:

- Canadian Housing Observer, CMHC
  - A regular circular overviewing housing trends and issues in Canada
- Canadian Housing Renewal Association, <http://www.chra-achru.ca/english/view.asp?x=1>
  - National affordability advocacy organisation
- Canadian Journal of Urban Research
- Encyclopedia of Housing, W. van Vliet
- One of the most comprehensive reference works on housing
- Geography of Housing, LS Bourne
  - Though dated, still a useful text on housing studies
- Habitat International
  - A journal with breadth of coverage while also focusing on housing access for marginalised communities. Global in coverage.
- House, Home and Community, J Miron
  - An edited Canadian text covering many of the core themes of housing studies.
- Housing in Postwar Canada, J Miron
  - A text representing the state of housing demand and, to a lesser extent, supply, in Canada to about 1990.
- Housing Policy Debate
  - An American journal on housing policy. Primarily applied in orientation. Published by Fannie Mae (similar to CMHC in Canada)
- Housing Studies
  - The leading international housing journal.
- International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
  - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.
- Journal of Urban Affairs
  - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.
- Real Estate Economics
  - As the title suggests, primarily an economic focus on urban land use and housing economics.
- Urban Affairs Review
  - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.
- Urban Geography
  - An urban journal with a geographical focus and some coverage of housing studies.
- Urban Studies
  - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.