

GEOGRAPHY 3461F

Land Use and Development Issues

Course Syllabus

Fall Term 2017

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Clark
Office: Social Science Centre 2312
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TA: Kate Schieman
Office: Social Science Centre 2333
Office Hours: Tuesday 1pm – 2pm
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Lectures

Wednesday, 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Room 1004, Social Science Centre

Labs

Wednesday, 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Room 1316A, Social Science Centre

Description: Critical examination of current land use and development projects; students are required actively to participate in the 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 urban waste management. 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 some case studies. 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 each class. Required readings will be carefully chosen to supplement topics to be discussed in class. Required readings will be assigned at least one week in advance to the class in which they will be required. Optional readings will also be identified for your benefit, should you wish to explore a topic further.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lab Task	Due Dates
September 13	Introduction / Syllabus / Project	None	None
September 20	Urban Development and Revitalization Downtown London Field Trip	Lab #1 - Field Methods 1	None
September 27	Built Environment and Health	Finalize Groups & Discuss Project Ideas	None
October 4	Recreation Planning	Meetings to Finalize Project Ideas	Lab #1
October 11	Reading Week - No Class	None	None
October 18	Transportation	Optional: Project Help	None
October 25	Economic Development Old East Village Field Trip	Lab #2 - Field Observations	Project Proposal
November 1	Managing Urban Waste	Project Meetings	Lab #2
November 8	GIS for Urban Analysis (In SSC 1316A All Class)	Lab #3 - GIS	None
November 15	Urban Design	Optional: Project Help	Lab #3
November 22	Urban Issues Debate	How to Give a Great Presentation	None
November 29	Presentations (Up to 3 Hours)	In Lecture Room	PowerPoint Presentations
December 6	Presentations (Up to 3 Hours)	In Lecture Room	Research Paper

EVALUATION METHODS

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

Assignment #1: Research Proposal	15%
Assignment #2: Research Paper	45%
Research Presentation	15%
Labs (5% each)	15%
Seminar Attendance/Participation	10%

Additional details on grading will be included in the handouts for the assignments and presentation. Due dates are outlined on the Class Schedule. Lab exercises will be due within one week after they are assigned. If you are unable to submit in person, please submit your assignment as a PDF on OWL. 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. You may miss one class without any attendance deductions.

LATE POLICY

Only under exceptional circumstances will late assignments be accepted for grading, without penalty. If a student requires an extension, it is the student's responsibility to negotiate an extension with me prior to the due date. In the event a student does not hand an assignment in on time or does not negotiate an extension, there will be a five percent (5%) deduction of the assignment's value per calendar day to a maximum of ten calendar days. After this ten-day calendar period, I will not grade the assignment except under unusual circumstances.

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 during office hours, though I will happily respond to short questions through OWL. I will respond to any OWL message within 2 business days.

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.

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).