

## **GEOG 3461F : Land Use and Development Issues**

### **Course Outline: Section 001 – Fall 2018**

#### **1. Course Information**

##### 1.1. Classroom Location:

Lectures: Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm, in room SSC 1004\*

Labs/Tutorials: Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30pm, in room SSC 1059\*

\*Unless otherwise stated. Please consult course NEWS page for any changes in location

##### 1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Jason Gilliland

Office: SSC 2432

Office Hours: Fridays 1:30-3:30pm (best to make an appointment)

Phone: 661-2111 x81239

Email: [jgillila@uwo.ca](mailto:jgillila@uwo.ca)

#### **2. Calendar Description**

##### 2.1. Course Description

Critical examination of current land use and development projects; students are required actively to participate in the discussions.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): none

Prerequisite(s): third or fourth year status at the University

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

##### 2.2. Senate Regulations

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**

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, news items, and/or 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 one week in advance of the

class for which they are due and posted to the course site on OWL. Students should regularly consult the course site for weekly readings and other important notices.

#### **4. Course Objectives and Format**

This course deals with some of the most crucial issues facing North American cities today, including (but not limited to) downtown renewal, urban sprawl, transportation and accessibility, public health, and heritage preservation. Discussion topics may fluctuate based on hot topics arising during the course. The overarching course objective is to explore the origin and extent of contemporary urban problems and examine how 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. In addition to lectures 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 class 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 objectives of the course is 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. The objective is to help all students develop their skills in critical thinking and appraisal, as well as oral communication.

Another course objective is to hone students' skills of observation as applied to urban environments and phenomena and to introduce them to new field methods for collecting primary data. During regularly scheduled lectures and tutorials, students will occasionally join the instructor, TA, and key local professionals for site visits within the city of London. Each site visit will be tied to lecture and/or 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.

Another course objective is to use the labs to introduce students to some simple yet powerful techniques for mapping and analyzing their spatial data using geographic information systems (GIS) software and/or other straightforward, freely-available tools. Absolutely no prior experience is needed.

Throughout this course, students will develop and hone the intellectual skills necessary to conduct an independent research project on an urban land use and development issue using appropriate concepts, study designs, primary and secondary data sources, and analytical plans. Each student will apply these skills in the "real world" by carrying out a primary research project in an area of London, Ontario.

#### **5. Learning Outcomes**

1. Enhanced knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental characteristics and underlying processes (political, economic, social) associated with the development and evolution of different natural, built, and social environments within cities and their interactions.

2. Enhanced awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different cities and places within cities (i.e., neighbourhoods, public spaces, private developments) and understanding of the processes that shape them over time.
3. Enhanced ability to combine breadth of knowledge of geography with specialized understanding in selected sub-fields (e.g., urban geography, health geography) and related disciplines (e.g., urban planning).
4. Demonstrated proficiency for synthesizing and evaluating geographical information from a diversity of secondary sources.
5. Enhancement of practical skills for collecting primary data related to urban environments and phenomena using observational tools and techniques outside the classroom.
6. Demonstrated proficiency for collecting, analyzing and interpreting different forms of geographical data in relation to natural, built, and social environments within cities.
7. Development of introductory knowledge and practical skills for visualizing geospatial data within a geographical information system.
8. Proficient ability to describe, explain, analyze and interpret geographical phenomena outside the classroom by engagement with people and places within urban environments.
9. Proficiency in analyzing real-world problems and policy applications using geographical concepts, skills, and understanding.
10. Demonstrated proficiency for communicating geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.

## 6. Schedule of Lectures, Labs and Assignments

The following is a general outline of the topics that will, more or less, be addressed in the course. This schedule is tentative and 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Due Dates</b>	<b>Lab Notes</b>
Sept 12	SSC 1004	<b>Introduction</b>	Tutorial: Lab setup (SSC 1059)
Sept 19	Downtown; 123 King Street	<b>Downtown</b> Development	Lab #1: Urban Field Methods (#1)
Sept 26	No class conflicts with 3000Y Field Courses		
Oct 3	SSC 1004	<b>Heritage Preservation and Urban Development</b> *Lab #1 Due*	Lab #2: Urban Field Methods (#2)
Oct 10	No class – Thanksgiving / Fall Reading Week		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Due Dates</b>	<b>Lab Notes</b>
Oct 17	Old East Village – 630 Dundas Street	<b>Deindustrialization &amp; Revitalization of Inner-City</b> *Lab #2 Due*	Lab #3: Urban Field Methods (#3)
Oct 24	SSC 1004	<b>Cities and Food</b> *Assignment #1: Research Proposal Due* *Lab #3 Due*	Lab #4: GIS for Urban Studies (#1)(SSC 1059)
Oct 31	SSC 1004	<b>Urban Built Environment and Health</b> *Lab #4 Due*	Lab #5: GIS for Urban Studies (#2)
Nov 7	SSC 1004	<b>Urban Sprawl &amp; Smart Growth</b> *Lab #5 due*	Tutorial: Exam Prep (SSC 1059)
Nov 14	SSC 1004	*Mid-Term Exam in class*	Tutorial: Project consultation (SSC 1059)
Nov 21	SSC 1004	<b>London in 2050</b>	Tutorial: Great presentation (SSC 1059)
Nov 28	SSC 1004	<b>The “Great City Debate”</b> Topic: Supervised Consumption Sites *Assignment #2: Research Paper Due*	Tutorial: Project consultation (SSC 1059)
Dec 5	SSC 1004	“Landscapes of London” Conference *Project Presentations today!*	Class extended No tutorial

## 7. Evaluation

<b>Evaluation Components</b>	<b>Percentage of Course Grade</b>	<b>Assignment Schedule</b>
Labs & Seminar Participation	15%	Weekly
Research Proposal	10%	October 24
Mid-term Exam	20%	November 14
Research Paper	45%	November 28
Project Presentation	10%	December 5

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the readings. Further details on grading will be included in the handouts for the assignments and presentation.

All assignments are due before the beginning of class on the date indicated. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Assignments are to be handed into Dr. Gilliland, or the TA (if we have one), at the beginning of class on their due date(s), after which point a late penalty will be assessed. For

your sake, do not slip them under an office door! It is wise to keep digital and hard copy backups of your assignments.

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.

Attendance will be taken each week; however, to achieve full participation marks for "seminar and lab participation" you are not only required to show up every week, but you must also contribute to class discussions and complete lab exercises. Please be respectful of the instructor and your fellow classmates and show up on time. 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.

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Illness:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)]

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

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

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.

**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. Make-up Examinations**

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero.

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

## **9. Use of Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

## **10. 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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>).

## **11. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

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. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

## **12. Medical Issues**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

[http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### **13. 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/>.

### **14. Support Services**

Student Support Services can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

### **15. Important Dates**

September 6: Classes resume

September 14: Last day to add a full course or a second term half course

October 8: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 9-13: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty

December 7: Classes end

December 8 and 9: Study days

December 10-21: Examination Period

December 21: Fall term ends