

## **GEOG 2162A: Planning Sustainable Cities**

### **Course Outline: Section 001 – Fall 2019**

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

##### 1.1. Classroom Location:

Lectures: Tuesdays 1:30-4:30pm, SSC 3018

##### 1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Justin Pompilii

Office: SSC 2223

Office Hours: 12:45-1:15pm

Phone: 661-2111 x82828

Email: [jpompil2@uwo.ca](mailto:jpompil2@uwo.ca)

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

##### 2.1. Course Description

Principles and processes of land use planning for urban and regional development; current issues and case studies

(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. General Course Expectations**

The objective of this course is to expose students to the role that land use planning plays within our urban, regional, and rural settings. The first part of the course will define planning and planning theory. Next, there will be discussion on why we need to plan our physical environment, what the public interest is in planning, and determination of the role planners have in the land use approval process. There will be an initial review of the major stakeholders in the municipal public decision-making process. There will also be an outline of the steps in both initiating and completing land use change, such as undertaking the processes of planning through policy formulation, implementation and need to monitor and evaluate the implemented plans and policies.

The next part of the course will touch on urban, regional and rural land use planning within the Province of Ontario, which takes on a historical overview of the legislative/policy structure to regulate our constantly evolving diversified/intermixed urban fabric and the need to control/contain suburban sprawl.

The course will also establish the setting for land use planning in Ontario by reviewing the policy, regulatory and political hierarchies that are in place. This top-down approach will depict the layered forms of government and identify the key land use regulatory and/or development tools, such as the official plan, zoning by-law, plan of subdivision, consent authority (land severance), committee of adjustment (minor variance) and site plan approval. The course will also touch on the roles of the key provincial ministries and public bodies that are part of the land use regulatory process.

The latter part of the course will discuss the role of urban, regional, and rural planning in our current setting, specifically, the urgent requirement for planning sustainable cities in our current and future settings. Emphasis will be placed on the need for a new form of sustainable urbanism. Various alternative development options will be discussed, such as new urbanism, smart growth, gentrification, compact urban form, infill and intensification, mixed-use development, place making, creating healthy and environmentally friendly communities through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and LEED – Neighbourhood Development (LEEDND) projects, redevelopment of brownfield sites, re-urbanization of our inner-city cores, regional sprawl by way of strategic satellite urban centres in close proximity to Ontario's traditional large-scale cities, and the preservation of farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.

The final part of the course will focus on the complex interrelationships that exist between the physical, environmental, economic, social, and built considerations in planning. There will be an examination of the role that Conservation Authorities play in protecting our natural and manmade landscapes. The course will also touch on the key role that municipal servicing plays in determining if land tracts are economically feasible for land use change(s).

In totality, the course attempts to document the advancement of the impact of urban planning principally in the Ontario setting and, to a lesser extent, North American and Global levels, in terms of the advancement of creating urban areas/cities from the early 1950s to our current setting. During this timeframe, urbanization and growth of our cities have surpassed the scale/size of cumulative human habitat our planet has developed prior to this interval in time, which has unfortunately failed to truly implement sustainable development. The objective still remains today on whether we will be able to finally create sustainable cities over the next projected unprecedented global human urbanization period (that will once again double our planet's present built form). This is now expected to occur within the next 35 years, even though planners and our overall society have now at its disposal a revolutionary set of planning tools and expertise. Coupled with this situation are now urgent needs to immediately address climate change, the limitations of Global resources, and expansive population growth, which has a collective desire for First World lifestyles.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to discuss, debate, and formulate their own opinions of the role the planning field plays within the urban, regional, and rural settings. The objective of the course is to inform students of the local government structure and establish the importance of the land use planning field within the municipal public approval process, regardless of their ultimate career choices. In order to achieve these objectives, regular attendance and active contribution in Lectures is required. Students must also complete a group presentation, midterm test, research report, and final exam.

In summary, the overall objective of the course is to equip students with the knowledge to assess/understand urban issues and, if they choose, possibly play a role in implementing the need for our society to plan sustainable cities.

#### **4. Course Outline**

##### **Understanding the Meaning of the Word “Planning”:**

##### **September 10, 2019:**

Defining Planning and Planning Theory

OWL Readings:

*Introduction to Structure and Debates of Planning Theory*

##### **September 17, 2019 to September 24, 2019:**

Determination of the Public Interest within the Planning Process

Establishing the Role Planners Have in the Determination of Land Uses within our Urban, Regional, and Rural Areas

Understanding the Decision-Making Environment in the Determination of Land Use

Initial Identification of the Five Principal Stakeholders within the Land Use Approval Process

Establishment of the Need to Formulate Plans and/or Policies in Problem-Solving Critical Thinking before Undertaking Required Action

Establishment of How Plans and Policies are implemented in the Planning Process

OWL Reading:

*Planners as Negotiators*

Establishment of the Need to Monitor and Evaluate the Implemented Plans and Policies in the Land Use Planning Process

##### **Urban, Regional and Rural Land Use Planning within the Province of Ontario: A Historical Overview of the Legislative/ Policy Structure to Control Suburban Sprawl & Create Fully Integrated Planned Unit Development:**

##### **October 1, 2019 to November 5, 2019:**

A Top-Down Approach in Reviewing Planning from the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Levels

Establishment of the Policy Structure in the Province of Ontario

Establishment of the Planning Structure and Horizontal Integration of Planning in the Province of Ontario

Establishment of the Planning System in the Province of Ontario through the Review of the Following:

Upper, Lower, and Single Tier Municipalities  
The Municipal Act  
The Planning Act

OWL Reading:

*General Plan Evaluation Criteria*

Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

MMA – Ministry of Municipal Affairs & MH – Ministry of Housing

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) / Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)

Municipal Land Use Development Controls

Review of Other Regulatory Provincial Ministries and Public Bodies that Impact Land Use and Development

**October 22, 2019: Midterm Test**

**Planning Sustainable Cities in Our Current and Future Settings:**

**October 29, 2019 to December 3, 2019:**

The Need to Create Sustainable Urbanism in order to Respond and be Accountable to Climate and Environmental Changes by Creating Alternative Development

Smart Growth, Gentrification, Compact Urban Growth, Infill and Intensification, Mixed Use Development and Place Making, Creating Healthy and Environmentally Friendly Communities through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and LEED – Neighbourhood Development (LEED-ND) Development Projects, Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites, Re-Urbanization of our Inner-City Cores, Regional Sprawl byway-of Strategic Satellite Urban Centres in Close Proximity to Ontario’s Traditional Large-Scale Cities, Preservation of Farmland, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Establishing Urban Area Wide Complete Healthy/Sustainable Communities

**Note:** Government and Private Interest Initiatives Will Be Cited as Examples of the Viability of These Above Referenced Land Use Planning Alternatives

**Note:** Changes to course material and times that it is taught may occur during the term

## **5. Course Tools**

Lecture based course – There is no required textbook

Supplementary OWL Readings (optional / not testable material)

Course related Newspaper Articles on OWL

District, Regional, County and Urban (local-level) Official Plan Website Links

## 6. Course Assignments and Grading

- 6.1. Group Assignment 15%  
Presentation (5%) & Written Submission (10%)
- 6.2. Midterm Test 25%  
October 22, 2019
- 6.3. Planning Report 25%  
December 3, 2019
- 6.4. Final Exam 25%  
TBA
- 6.5. Participation 10%  
in-class short answer questions (4.5%)  
class participation (5.5%)

Group Assignment and presentation members will be established by the end of the 4th week. During this time period, a sign-up sheet will be provided and finalized. The PowerPoint component of the Group Assignment will be electronically submitted to me the day before its presentation and the written component is due the date that it is presented.

All students will be required to write the midterm test. There will only be one opportunity to write a make-up midterm test if proper documentation is provided.

Group Assignments and Planning Reports are to be personally handed to the instructor on the due date at the beginning of class. If assignments are not submitted on the due date, there will be an automatic 10% late penalty. In addition, a daily 1% mark deduction (weekends count as one weekday) will apply. Assignments will not be accepted if handed in more than one week after the due date. ***If reports are submitted outside of class, they must be dropped off at the Geography Office (because they are required to be stamped).*** Students are required to keep a copy of all materials handed in for the course.

Late penalties will be waived for justifiable medical and humanitarian grounds. In these cases, appropriate documentation must be provided or a mark of zero will be assigned.

Please note: The Lectures and Lecture materials are copyrighted (copyright held by Justin L. Pompilii). No duplication is allowed. This includes at minimum audio, video and written duplication.

For Western's NEW Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses please refer to the Academic Calendar' section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities.

### Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;

- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

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.

## 7. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the 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.

## 8. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

## 9. 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>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## 10. 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.

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

## 11. 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.

## 12. Support Services

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

### **13.Important Dates**

September 5: Classes resume

September 13: Last day to add a first term half course

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 4 to November 10: 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 penalty

December 5: Classes end

December 6 and 7: Study days

December 8-19: Examination Period