

## GEOG 2160B – HEALTHY CITIES

### Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](https://www.uwo.ca/dse/) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

### 1. Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer

Recommended technical specifications:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html>

Western Zoom webpage, including privacy

information: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>.

### 2. Course Information



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Asynchronous online	TBD	TBD
Synchronous office hours		

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 5

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 11	February 13-21	April 12	April 13	April 14-30

\* March 15, 2021: Last day to add a second-term half course



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Jason Gilliland	<a href="mailto:jgillila@uwo.ca">jgillila@uwo.ca</a>	TBD by class

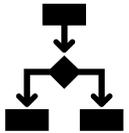
Teaching Assistants	Contact Information	Office Hours
Alexander Wray	<a href="mailto:awray22@uwo.ca">awray22@uwo.ca</a>	TBD by class
David Lui	<a href="mailto:dlui25@uwo.ca">dlui25@uwo.ca</a>	TBD by class



Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom at a time determined by the class  
Students will be able to sign up for an appointment over email outside of regularly scheduled office hours, limited to 15 mins with the course instructor or teaching assistants

### 3. Calendar Description

A survey course exploring the connections between urban environments, health, and wellbeing, including key historical developments, theories, problems, and solutions. Hands-on activities throughout will teach skills and knowledge suitable for careers in planning, urban development, public health, medicine, business, civil engineering, and municipal government.



Approximately 5 hours per week of asynchronous work, 0.5 course  
Extra Information: 2 lecture hours, 1 lab hour per course calendar  
Antirequisite(s): None  
Prerequisite(s): None  
Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

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."

### 4. Textbook

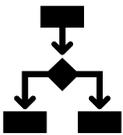


There is no primary text for this course. Mandatory readings, videos, and activities will be posted on OWL prior to the completion date in the class schedule. Material listed for a particular week is expected to be completed prior to the lecture time.

## 5. Course Objectives and Format

The places we live, work, and play dictate our health and wellbeing. This introductory course explores the concept of the “healthy city” from the perspective of the fields of geography, urban studies, real estate, psychology, economics, health studies, and medicine. This course is suitable for students from all faculties interested in learning about how urban places can shape our health. Through dynamic lectures and hands-on lab activities, students will discover the theories, methods, and techniques that can be used to create healthier cities for all. This is a career-focused learning opportunity that will be practical, realistic, and informative. Skills developed in this course will be transferable to a wide-range of disciplines and are expected to be in significant demand among employers in government, corporate, and commercial sectors.

The objective of this course is to explore how historical development patterns have led to a wide range of unhealthy landscapes in North America; the impact of prescribing nature to improve wellbeing; designing cities for all children and older adults; the role of food in shaping urban health; the urban response to climate change; the triple-bottom line of public transit; and the importance of walkable and bikable cities. Field exercises will be conducted throughout the term for students to learn how to complete walkability and park audits, morphological assessments, traffic counts, and other techniques that are in-demand skills for employers.



Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual synchronous office hours	TBD	TBD	weekly
Virtual asynchronous course content pages	N/A	Approximately 5 hours per week	weekly

- Asynchronous work should be completed the week it is assigned to ensure on-time completion of other course activities.
- Missed work should be completed within 72 hours
- Closed captioning will be provided on all audio or video recordings

All course material will be posted to OWL by 4:00pm of the Monday of the appropriate week of content: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## 6. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the built and natural features of a city that can impact human health and wellbeing;
- Define and explain the theories that inform research, policy, and practice around healthy cities across a range of academic disciplines;
- Apply the skills that are useful for analyzing complex urban problems and developing solutions that are practical and cost-effective; and
- Articulate the value of interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration in urban health to a range of public, professional, and academic audiences.

This course contributes to achieving the Department of Geography's learning outcomes, by encouraging students to:

- Combine geographic knowledge with a focused understanding of theories and practices in other disciplines;
- Describe and explain, analyze, and interpret geographical phenomena outside the classroom by engaging with people, places, and environments;
- Analyze real-world problems and policy applications using geographical concepts, skills, and understanding; and
- Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.



This course contributes to achieving Western University's degree learning outcomes, by providing opportunities for students to:

- Develop a sense of discovery that drives their ability to ask and frame questions, seek out connections that are not immediately obvious, and identify, analyze and solve problems;
- Use disciplinary discourse, technical language, and research methods to identify, locate, and evaluate oral, print, graphic, numerical, scientific, or digital information in the process of solving complex problems;
- Interact and collaborate with other individuals and groups using appropriate language and reasoning so that it is clear and accessible to a variety of audiences; and
- Develop habits of constructive skepticism, differentiation, and intellectual adaptability in approaching phenomena, artefacts, issues, or arguments to identify underlying assumptions, agendas, purposes, audiences, points of view, paradigms, evidence, implications, and logical strategies that inform careful judgments.

## 7. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Jan 11 – 17	Course Introduction	Check OWL
2	Jan 18 – 24	Planning & Public Health	Check OWL
3	Jan 25 – 31	Climate Change	Check OWL
4	Feb 1 – 7	Nature & Greenspace	Check OWL
5	Feb 8 – 14	Careers	Check OWL
6	Feb 15 – 21	READING WEEK	N/A
7	Feb 22 – 28	Automotive	Check OWL
8	Mar 1 – 7	Public Transit	Check OWL
9	Mar 8 – 14	Walk, Bike, Roll	Check OWL
10	Mar 15 – 21	GISystems	Check OWL
11	Mar 22 – 28	Food Environments	Check OWL
12	Mar 29 – Apr 4	Substance Use	Check OWL
13	Apr 5 – 11	Short Video Watch Party	Check OWL
14	Apr 12	NO CLASS	N/A

## 8. Online Participation and Engagement



Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible

## 9. Communication

Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours

A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements



The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 72 hours

## 10. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Weekly Quizzes	OWL Tests & Quizzes	5% each (40%)	Week 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12
Park Audit	Submission to OWL	5%	Week 4
Park Policy Scan	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 5
Transit Audit	Submission to OWL	5%	Week 9
GIS Lab	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 10
Delivery Price Audit	Submission to OWL	5%	Week 11
Vaping Policy Scan	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 12
Short Video	Submission to OWL	15%	Week 13

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in any additional resources provided.

- Quizzes are due the following Monday by 11:55 pm EST for their associated week
- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments may be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days



Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

### Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10% per day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 72 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight will be transferred to the final assignment
- The weight of a missed quiz will be transferred to the final assignment

**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.**

## 11. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

### Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

## 12. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

## 13. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

## 14. Statements concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

## 15. 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 assignment submissions 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.

## **16. 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.

## **17. 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.

## **18. Support Services**

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

## **19. Important Dates**

January 11: Classes resume  
January 19: Last day to add a second term half course  
February 15: Family Day – Department Office Closed  
February 13 to February 21: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)  
March 15: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty  
April 2: Good Friday  
April 12: Classes end  
April 13: Study day  
April 14 to April 30: Examination Period