


GEOG 3461F – Land Use and Development Issues

Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2020



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](#) 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



Working microphone



Working webcam

Recommended technical specifications are available at:

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

2. Course Information



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Synchronous and asynchronous elements	Wednesdays	2:30-5:30pm EST (GMT-5)

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 9	November 2 - 8	December 9	December 10	December 11 - 22

* September 17, 2020: Last day to add a first-term half course

** November 12, 2020: Last day to drop a first-term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Jason Gilliland	jgillila@uwo.ca	By appointment only

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Alexander "AJ" Wray	awray22@uwo.ca	By appointment only



- Office hours will be held **remotely, by appointment, using Zoom and/or Collaborate UE**
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment **using email**
- Students will be able to drop into sessions **according to course schedule**
- Group tutorials / office hours will be held on **Collaborate UE or Zoom, recorded, and posted on OWL** for everyone to view (typically every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30pm)

3. Calendar Description

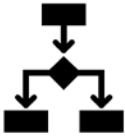
Critical examination of current land use and development projects; students are required actively to participate in the discussions.

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



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.”

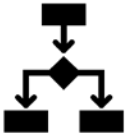
4. Textbook

You do not have to buy any textbook for this course. All resources will be posted in OWL.



5. 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, transportation and accessibility, urban sprawl, 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. Students will apply the skills and knowledge they gain through this course to real tangible projects with community and government clients from the London area. These projects have been carefully crafted to give students exposure to the response to Request for Proposals (RFP) process, experience in managing a project with an external client, and a hands-on application of research techniques common in urban geography and related professions, including urban planning, environmental consulting, and the land use and development industry. 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. Students will leave this course with highly desirable project management, bidding, and consulting skills. 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. 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.



Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual synchronous	September 9, 16, 30 October 7, 14, 21, 28 November 11, 18, 25	Typically 4:30-5:20pm unless otherwise stated	weekly
Virtual asynchronous	Completed by September 30	5 hours per week for a total of 20 hours	weekly

Asynchronous pre-work should be completed prior to the related class session each week, and must be completed by September 30, 2020. Attendance at synchronous sessions is required. Missed work should be completed within 72 hours. Closed captioning will be provided on audio or video recordings. All course material will be posted to OWL: <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

By the end of this course, students will have:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Demonstrated proficiency for synthesizing and evaluating geographical information from a diversity of secondary sources.
- Enhancement of practical skills for collecting primary data related to urban environments and phenomena using observational tools and techniques outside the classroom.
- Demonstrated proficiency for collecting, analyzing and interpreting different forms of geographical data in relation to natural, built, and social environments within cities.
- Development of introductory knowledge and practical skills for visualizing geospatial data within a geographical information system.
- Proficient ability to describe, explain, analyze and interpret geographical phenomena outside the classroom by engagement with people and places within urban environments.
- Proficiency in analyzing real-world problems and policy applications using geographical concepts, skills, and understanding.
- Demonstrated proficiency for communicating geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.



7. Online Participation and Engagement



Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
Students can also participate by interacting over email with their peers and instructors

8. Course Content and Schedule

BB means Blackboard Collaborate UE or Zoom available via OWL. All content posted on OWL should be viewed prior to the related synchronous session. For example, the How to Write a Great Response to an RFP asynchronous content should be completed prior to September 16 at 4:30pm.



Week	Dates	Topic	Synchronous Session
1	Sept 9	Introduction & Bingo	2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
2	Sept 16	How to Write a Great Response to an RFP	4:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB for Q&A about RFPs
3	Sept 23	Current Planning, Land Use and Development Issues	4:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB for office hours
4	Sept 30	Land Use and Development Careers	4:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB for Q&A about current urban issues and careers with alumni
5	Oct 7	Project Check-Ins	Check-in scheduled between 2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
6	Oct 14	GIS Lab	2:30-4:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB for lab instruction, 4:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB for office hours
7	Oct 21	Data Management and Formatting	No synchronous session
8	Oct 28	Project Check-ins	Check-in scheduled between 2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
9	Nov 4	Reading Week	N/A
10	Nov 11	Project Check-ins	Check-in scheduled between 2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
11	Nov 18	Project Check-ins	Check-in scheduled between 2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
12	Nov 25	Project Check-ins	Check-in scheduled between 2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
13	Dec 2	Optional Project Check-ins	Check-in scheduled between 2:30-5:20pm EST (GMT-5) on BB
14	Dec 9	Project Presentations	No synchronous session

9. Communication



Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours. A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements. Students should email their instructor and teaching assistant using their UWO email. For any other communication, 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 typically receive a response in 48 - 72 hours.

10. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Response to RFP	Submission to OWL	15%	September 30
Course Content Quiz	Online Quiz	5%	October 7
GIS Lab	Submission to OWL	5%	October 21
Project Data Submission	Submission to OWL	5%	October 28
Attendance at Project Check-Ins	Attend check-in sessions (5)	1% each (total 5%)	October 7 October 28 November 11 November 18 November 25
Video Presentation	Submission to OWL	15%	December 2
Project Final Report	Submission to OWL	50%	December 9
Project Reflection	Online Quiz	2% bonus	December 11



Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. All assignments are due at 4:30 pm EST (GMT-5) unless otherwise specified. Written assignments may be submitted to Turnitin. 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%/day. If the assessment is less than 10% of the total course grade, the assessment must be completed within 7 days of the due date. An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight will be transferred to the final report assessment. **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.

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. Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are allowed in class for note taking and making presentations only. You may not audio or video record any lectures or presentations without expressed permission of the instructor.

13. 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.



14. 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.

15. 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:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- 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.

16. 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>).

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. Support Services

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

20. Important Dates

September 9: Classes resume

September 17: Last day to add a first term half course

October 12: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 2 to November 8: 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 9: Classes end

December 10: Study day

December 11-22: Examination Period