

GEOG 2160B – Healthy Cities

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2022

This course is taught in-person with asynchronous elements

1. Course Information

	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-Person	Tuesdays 1:30-3:30pm	NSC 145
Lab	In-Person	Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm	NSC 145

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

Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 10	February 21-25	April 8	April 9	April 10-30

January 18, 2022: Last day to add a second-term half course

March 14, 2022: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

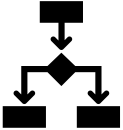
Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Jason Gilliland	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Available on request

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Olivia Caruso	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Available on request
Heather Jantzi	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Available on request
Alexander Wray	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Available on request

- Office hours may be held in-person, or remotely via Microsoft Teams or Zoom
- Students will be able to request an office hours appointment with a TA by emailing geog2160inbox@uwo.ca

2. 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.



2 lecture hours, 1 lab hour, 0.5 course

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."

3. Textbook

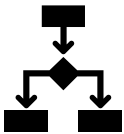


There is no primary text for this course. Mandatory readings, videos, and activities will be posted on OWL prior to the completion date in the class schedule. Material listed for a particular week is expected to be completed prior to the lecture time. This material is testable for the in-class quizzes.

4. 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.



- There is asynchronous coursework posted on OWL and Microsoft Stream that should be **COMPLETED PRIOR TO** the lecture.
- Attendance is required to participate in the in-class quizzes. Missed work should be completed within 72 hours.
- 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.

5. 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.


6. Course Content and Schedule

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the first three weeks of the course will be delivered asynchronously via OWL and Microsoft Stream, with opportunities for synchronous discussion on Zoom with the course instructor and TAs.



Week	Dates	Topic	Assessments
1	January 10-14	Course Introduction	None
2	January 17-21	Planning & Health	Quiz
3	January 24-28	Climate Change	Quiz
4	January 31-February 4	Nature	Quiz, Assignment 1
5	February 7-11	Careers	Assignment 2
6	February 14-18	Automotive	Quiz
7	February 21-25	Reading Week	None
8	February 28-March 4	Public Transit	Quiz
9	March 7-11	Walk, Bike, Roll	Quiz, Assignment 3
10	March 14-18	Geographic Info Systems	Assignment 4
11	March 21-25	Food Environments	Quiz
12	March 28-April 1	Substance Use	Quiz
13	April 4-8	Inclusive Design	Quiz

7. Communication

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- Students should check the OWL site every 48 hours
 - A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
 - Students should email their instructor and teaching assistants using geog2160inbox@uwo.ca
 - 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 receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
In-Class Quizzes	OWL Tests & Quizzes In-Class	5% each (40%)	Week 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, & 13
Assignment #1	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 4
Assignment #2	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 5
Assignment #3	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 9
Assignment #4	Submission to OWL	10%	Week 10
Multimedia Assignment (Final)	Submission to OWL	20%	April 8, 2021

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified. In-class quizzes will be completed immediately after the lecture and discussion. Attendance in the lecture hall is mandatory for completing the quiz. Written assignments will 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. The lowest quiz mark will be dropped at the end of the course, and the total weighting (40%) for that assessment category will be calculated based on the top 8 of 9 quiz marks.



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 assignments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10% per day. Late assignments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 72 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
- Assignments 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 in-class quiz will be transferred to the final assignment. However, one missed quiz will be counted as the lowest mark to be dropped for quizzes, and only up to 2 additional quizzes may be transferred to the final assignment. Any additional missed quizzes will count as zeros.

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.

9. 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](#).

10. Make-up Examinations

Examinations are not held in this course.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are encouraged in this class, and necessary for completion of the in-class quiz via OWL Tests & Quizzes. A limited number of tablets will be available for students who do not have access to an electronic device to complete the in-class quiz.

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. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a 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. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

14. Information on COVID-19

Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments due to Daily COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire denial requires formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling), and will be treated the same as any other limited absence. Testing positive for COVID-19 will be treated as any other long-term medical absence, with appropriate accommodations.

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 written assignments 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 quizzes may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

15. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

16. 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.

17. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

18. Important Dates

January 10: Classes resume

January 18: Last day to add a second term half course

February 21: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 21-25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 14: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 8: Classes end

April 9: Study day

April 10-30: Examination Period