

GEOG 2160B – Healthy Cities

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2023

1. Course Information

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

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 9	February 18-26	April 10	April 11 & 12	April 13-30

January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 20, 2023: Family Day

March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



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

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Elmond Bandauko	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Fridays, 3:00-4:00 pm (Zoom drop-in)
Olivia Caruso	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Thursdays 3:00-4:00pm (Zoom drop-in)
Stanley Ho	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Wednesdays 12noon-1pm (In person drop-in)
Alexander “AJ” Wray	geog2160inbox@uwo.ca	Tuesdays 11am-12pm (In person drop-in)

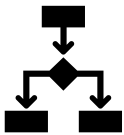


- Office hours may be held in-person in the Department of Geography and Environment’s Teaching Assistant Consultation Office during regular operating hours (Social Science Centre rm. 2316), or remotely via Zoom
- Students may also email the instructional team questions at geog2160inbox@uwo.ca
- All students should communicate with the instructional team by emailing geog2160inbox@uwo.ca, any initial direct communications to individual teaching assistants or the course instructor will be ignored.

- In-person or remote consultations outside of scheduled office hours with a member of the instructional team may be requested by emailing geog2160inbox@uwo.ca. However, please contact the instructional team at least two business days before the requested meeting date/time to accommodate scheduling.

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

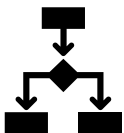
Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in 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 on all assessments.

4. Course Objectives and Format



The places we live, work, and play impact 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 bikeable cities. Exercises will be conducted throughout the term for students to learn how to complete policy evaluations, walkability audits, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, 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 quizzes.
- 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](#). Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL.

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



Week	Date	Topic	Assessments
1	January 10	Course Introduction	--
2	January 17	Planning & Health	--
3	January 24	Climate Change in the City	--
4	January 31	Nature, Parks, and All Things Green	Assignment 1 assigned
5	February 7	Careers	Quiz 1
6	February 14	Automotive: Driving the City	Assignment 1 due
7	February 21	Reading Week	--
8	February 28	Active Transport: Walk, Bike, Roll	Assignment 2 assigned
9	March 7	Public Transit: The Magic Bus	Assignment 2 due
10	March 14	Geographic Information Systems	Quiz 2 Assignment 3 assigned
11	March 21	Food Environments: Feeding the City	Assignment 3 due
12	March 28	Substance Use: Consuming the City	--
13	April 4	Inclusive Design	Quiz 3

7. Communication



- 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 – all other communication directly to the instructional team’s individual email accounts will be ignored.
- 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 within 2 business days. Emails sent on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday will be responded to by the following Tuesday morning.

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Quizzes [60%]			
Quiz #1	In-Class	20%	February 7
Quiz #2	In-Class	20%	March 14
Quiz #3	In-Class	20%	April 4
Assignments [40%]			
Assignment #1 (Park Policy Evaluation)	Submission to OWL	14%	February 14
Assignment #2 (Walkability Audit)	Submission to OWL	12%	March 7
Assignment #3 (GIS Mapping)	Submission to OWL	14%	March 21



The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course. Alternative assessments to quizzes and the assignments are not possible as they would not match the intended learning objectives for the course.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned text, audio, and video materials posted on OWL.

All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST on the identified due date unless otherwise specified.

Attendance in the lecture hall is mandatory for completing all quizzes unless other academic accommodations are required.

Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below).

Rubrics are not provided in this course. Fair, objective, learning objective-based marking criteria are provided in the assignment instructions that are then applied when marking.

All assignments are marked by at least two teaching assistants, with any discrepancies resolved through evaluation by the course instructor.

After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting geog2160inbox@uwo.ca; 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:

There is no assessment worth less than 10% in this course. Therefore, any request for academic considerations due to illness/compassionate grounds/personal/religious reasons must be filed by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's academic counselling office and not the instructional team. Any requests made to the instructional team directly will be ignored. All documentation must be secured within 48 hours of the assessment date or due date. Once documentation is secured from academic counselling, the instructional team will apply the below policies.

Missing a quiz without academic counselling documentation will result in 0% for that assessment.

Missing Quiz #1 and/or Quiz #2, with proper academic counselling documentation, will result in having to complete a make-up quiz during the final hour of the next class (February 14 for Quiz #1, March 21 for Quiz #2). Missing Quiz #3 will result in you having to complete the quiz at the next available Department of Geography & Environment's make-up session (to be determined).

Missing a make-up session, without proper academic counselling documentation that sets acceptable alternative arrangements such as at the Department's next scheduled make-up session or other date/time/location determined by the instructional team in consultation with the student and counselling, will result in 0% for that assessment.

Assignments submitted late without academic counselling documentation will be deducted 1% of its total value in the course per day (one elapsed 24-hour period from the due date, the penalty for the first day applies immediately after the set due date and time) until reaching zero after the 12th day in the case of Assignment #2, and 14th day in the case of Assignment #1 and #3. The late penalty will be applied to the student's mark received on the assignment. Therefore, if a student received 10/12 on Assignment #1 but submitted it two days late, the student would receive 8/12 on that assessment.

Assignments submitted late with academic counselling documentation must be submitted within a minimum of 48 hours after the due date, unless otherwise indicated in counselling documentation.

All late assignments, with appropriate academic counselling documentation, must be submitted by April 10, 2023, at 11:55pm. Any assignments submitted after this date will receive 0% for the assessment, no exceptions.

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

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

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

There are no make-up examinations.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during quizzes. All quizzes are closed-book with no reference materials allowed.

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 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 (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically academic counselling).

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 required assessments 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 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.

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](#)

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

19. Important Dates

Monday January 9: Classes resume

Tuesday January 10: First class of GEOG2160B

Tuesday January 17: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 20: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 18 to February 26: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Tuesday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Tuesday April 4: Last class of GEOG2160B

Friday April 7: Good Friday – Department Office Closed

Monday April 10: Classes end

April 11 and 12: Study days

April 13-30: Examination Period