

## GEOG 3461F – Land Use and Development Issues Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2024

This course is taught in-person

### 1. Course Information



Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 5	October 14-20	December 6	December 7 & 8	December 9-22

September 13, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course

September 30, 2024: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (observed as a non-instructional day at Western).

October 14, 2024: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30, 2024: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Marcello Vecchio	mvecchi@uwo.ca	By appointment only (Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm)

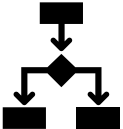
Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Josh Grignon	jgrigno@uwo.ca	TBD



- Office hours will be held remotely using MS Teams
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment by email or in person. Group meetings are encouraged, especially in relation to the culminating project.

### 2. Calendar Description

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



**Prerequisite(s):** Third or fourth year status at the University.

**Extra Information:** 3 seminar hours.

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



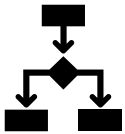
You do not have to buy any textbooks for this course. All resources will be posted to OWL, or will be obtained by students via their own research, using a variety of research methods.

### 4. Course Objectives and Format

This course focuses on contemporary planning and development issues facing North American cities and the way that planners, developers and a multitude of other stakeholders address these issues. The interrelationships between planning and actual implementation of developments or infrastructure will be explored. Subjects such as the current housing crisis, changing landscapes of commercial space in downtowns, urban design and intensification, future of cities, and community/transportation issues will all be investigated.

Through weekly lectures the course examines the fundamentals of planning and development from both the public sector “policy based” perspective to the private sector “implementation based” perspective. Understanding how those two parties interact is the foundation of addressing and solving the issues faced by urban areas.

Aiding in this understanding of high-level concepts and issues, will be the use of real-world field studies during class hours (all will be accessible by London Transit). Many of these studies will be integrated into lab sessions and give an understanding of how to use various tools that help students help more deeply investigate, analyze, understand and converse on current planning and development issues.



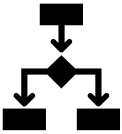
Finally, the course requires students to conduct a primary research project whereby they will synthesize the knowledge and skills they have gained through the course to: (1) submit a high-level background scan and summary of an assigned planning issue; (2) submit a competitive project proposal to work on a real-world planning and/or development issue; (3) undertake that research project to collect data, analyze data, formulate potential solutions and offer recommendations designed to address the planning and development issue they are tackling.

The course is designed to meet the following more general objectives:

- Expose students to contemporary planning and development issues – how cities are planned and how development shapes our urban environments and daily lives.
- Develop knowledge and skills necessary to critically analyze and evaluate planning and development processes.
- Immerse students within the context of various sites in London, Canada to demonstrate how these planning and development issues present themselves in a real-world setting.

- ☒ Attendance is required at lectures, field studies, and end of term presentations
- ☒ Students will be responsible for their own transportation to local Field Study locations – all will be accessible by LTC (London Transit) and time will be give before and after so it does not impact other courses

All course material will be posted to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. 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 Brightspace 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:

Insert Learning Outcomes, list at the end of this document

- Better understand fundamentals of urban planning and development
- Comprehend how key aspects of planning and development shape our built environments
- Understand the relationships between planning and development and topics such as the current housing crisis, changing landscapes of commercial space in downtowns, urban design and intensification, future of cities, and community/transportation issues
- Learn about a host of contemporary planning and development issues faced by Cities across North America
- Explore how these issues are manifesting themselves in their home communities and how they are affecting the shape of the cities that they live in



## 6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	Labs
1	No class	N/A	N/A	
2	Sept 11	Reviewing Materials and Course Introduction	Syllabus	No lab
3	Sept 18	Planning – what is it and why do we need it?		Project Introduction – Responding to an RFP
4	Sept 25	Lecture 2: Housing Crisis in Ontario –	Several articles posted to OWL	Assignment 1 – policy and

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	Labs
		who is responsible, how do we fix it?		initiatives investigation
5	October 2	Urban Regeneration and changing downtown landscapes	Several articles posted to OWL	FIELD TRIP DOWNTOWN LONDON
6	October 9	Demonization of Suburbia and the Fight for Intensification	Several articles posted to OWL	FIELD TRIP LOCAL CORE AREA DEVELOPMENT  <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>  Assignment 2 – quantifying intensification targets – how policy drives development
	October 14-18	Fall Reading Week	N/A	
7	October 23	Planning for Community – what are common issues faced by urban areas today?		Project Check-In and Updates  <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>
8	October 30	Developments and Crash Course on Financial Decision-Based Design	Material posted to OWL	Assignment 3 – issues debate paper  Project Time
9	November 6			
10	November 13	Future of Cities – Where are we headed?	N/A	FIELD TRIP or Guest Speaker (TBD)
11	November 20	Enablers and Barriers – What is the Political Discussion in Housing?	Material posted to OWL	Project Time/Final Check-In  <b>Assignment 3 Due</b>

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	Labs
12	November 27	Class Presentations	N/A	N/A
13	<b>November 29</b>	<b>Final Project Due</b>	N/A	N/A

## 7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Regular updates will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using their UWO email (please copy both the instructor and TA on all communications)
- 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
Assignment 1 Policy and Initiatives Investigation Lab		10%	October 9 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment 2 Quantifying Intensification Targets Lab		10%	October 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Assignment 3 Urban Issues Debate Paper		10%	November 20 <sup>th</sup>
Final Project: Proposal		15%	October 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Final Project: Research Results		10%	November 13 <sup>th</sup>
Final Project: Presentation		15%	November 27 <sup>th</sup>
Final Project: Final Report		25%	November 29 <sup>th</sup>
Participation and Attendance		5%	Throughout Course



The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have one allowed submission 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

**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](#).

### **General Information about missed work:**

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

### **Formal Documentation Designation statement:**

All assignments listed will require formal documentation for academic consideration.

Please note that these assessments are considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work: re-weighting of remaining course material.

### **Absence from Course Commitments**

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

### **Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation**

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

Final Project (Due November 29<sup>th</sup>)

### **Academic Consideration for Course Components with Flexible Deadlines**

#### **Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

## **10. Make-up Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

[If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, permission to write another Special Examination will be granted only with the permission of the Dean in exceptional circumstances and with appropriate supporting documents. In such a case, the date of this Special Examination normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time the course is offered and the maximum course load for that term reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. If permission for such a further deferral or other

accommodation is not granted, a course grade based on an examination mark of zero (0) will be entered.

You can find the actual policy [here](#)]

## 11. Use of Electronic Devices

N/A

## 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. 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> ).

## 14. 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.

## 15. **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.

## 16. **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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## 17. **Important Dates**

September 5: Classes resume

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

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 14-20: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 30: Last day to drop a first term half course or a full course without penalty

December 6: Classes end

December 7 and 8: Study days

December 9-22: Examination Period