Welcome to GEOG 340—Cities and Planning! This course provides an overview of key thematic areas related to cities and planning in the North American context. The main goal of the class is to offer a critical examination of the history of urban planning and contemporary issues in urban geography, with a particular focus on the historical geography of urbanization, changing approaches to urban planning and governance; the politics of urban renewal; neoliberal urbanism; housing and homelessness; gentrification; cultural diversity, social segregation, and immigrant communities; and utopian speculations on the urban future. We shall explore these issues and more in relation to various North American cities to illuminate the complexities of the urban experience.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Provide a broad overview of the key concepts and perspectives in urban geography and planning
- Examine the main geographical processes of urbanization and the history of urban planning in North America
- Assess the major political, economic, social, and cultural changes that have transformed contemporary urban landscapes in North America
- Critically analyze the politics of urban development and social inequality within capitalist societies

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Acquire a general understanding of the major concepts and approaches in contemporary urban geography and planning
- Acquire an in-depth knowledge of the historical and contemporary processes of urbanization and planning in the North American context
• Develop the ability to critically assess the contested politics that have shaped the urban experience
• Improve competency in critical urban analysis by collecting and analyzing primary urban data as part of a group research project

CLASS FORMAT
The format for this course will consist of a combination of lectures, seminar-style discussions of assigned readings, and films. In order for the seminar discussions to work, students need to have read the assigned readings prior to class each day. In addition to the midterm and final exam, the main assignments for the course will be a group research project, which will consist of a research paper and presentation.

READINGS
Required Course Texts
• All reading materials will be available on the CourseSpaces page for this class (http://coursespaces.uvic.ca).

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING SCHEME
Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Project</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 100%

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade point value</th>
<th>Grade scale</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80-84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Score</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65-69%</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60-64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50-59%</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: COURSESPACES**

We will be using the CourseSpaces management system as a medium for the posting of relevant course materials and related course information ([http://coursespaces.uvic.ca](http://coursespaces.uvic.ca)). Powepoint files for each lecture will be posted on CourseSpaces at the end of each week.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Exams (45%)**

The course will have one mid-term exam (20%) and a final exam (25%). Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and essay questions. The final exam, held during the regular final exam period, will be cumulative.

**Group Research Project (45%)**

Students will develop a group research project on a topic related to the geographies of urban planning and/or urban politics in the Greater Victoria Region of British Columbia, Canada. At the beginning of the semester, students will form research teams, select a relevant topic, and then construct a research design procedure for data collection and analysis under the supervision of the course instructor. The primary method of data collection will be one of the following: (1) semi-structured interviews, (2) a survey questionnaire, or (3) archival materials. We will discuss the details of the research project further in class, but the end product will consist of:

(a) *Data should include at least one of the following:*

- **Semi-Structured Interviews:** Audio files and consent forms should be submitted to the course instructor for a series of interviews conducted with research participants (approx. 8-10 interviews per group, an estimated 30-60 minutes per interview).

- **Survey Questionnaire:** If a research team prefers to conduct a survey questionnaire instead of doing interviews, the survey materials and consent forms should be submitted to the course instructor for all survey respondents (at least 30 respondents per group).

- **Archival Materials:** If the research team prefers to conduct a historical study related to an aspect of urban planning in the Greater Victoria Region, this will entail the collection of archival materials related to the group’s case study. For instance, such
materials might include historical planning reports, City Council records, historical maps, newspaper articles, etc.

(b) Research Report: A 10-15 page, double-spaced, 12-pt font, 2.54 cm margins research report that describes the research questions posed, methodology employed, data collected, analysis of the key themes from the data, and a discussion of how your results contribute to our understanding of urban geography and planning.

(c) Group Presentation: Each group will present their findings to the class at the end of the semester (estimate approx. 15-20 minutes per presentation although this may vary depending on class enrollments and the number of research teams).

Attendance (10%)
Attendance is crucial to the successful completion of this class. A sign-in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class session. Each student is responsible for signing the sign-in sheet. If a student has a university-excused absence, this should be discussed with the instructor, preferably before the date of absence. Additionally, each student is required to attend at least one of The City Talks public lectures as part of their participation in this course (see below). If a student cannot attend one of these talks due to a scheduling conflict, please consult the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make other arrangements.

The City Talks: Urban Studies Speaker Series
This fall the Committee for Urban Studies at UVic will be hosting its annual public speaker series called The City Talks. The series schedule will be posted on CourseSpaces, and you are only required to attend one of the lectures as part of your class attendance for the course this fall. However, I encourage you to come to all the lectures if time permits. For more information about The City Talks schedule, see http://thecitytalks.ca. If you are not able to attend a City Talks lecture, please speak with me ahead of time to make alternative arrangements.

OFFICE HOURS
I strongly encourage you to come to my office hours. As the course instructor, my main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class in general, you are more than welcome to come speak with me during office hours. If you are not available during that time, email me to set up an appointment.

EMAIL
Send all email to me using the email address listed on the first page of the syllabus (redwood@uvic.ca). Please include the course number (GEOG 340) in the email subject title. I will do my best to respond promptly to your questions.

PLAGIARISM
All class assignments should be prepared by the student(s) submitting the assignment. Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism consists of: (a) submitting someone else’s work as your own without the use of proper citation or (b) paraphrasing another’s ideas without acknowledging the author’s work through citation. The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written
authorization. If you have any questions concerning matters of plagiarism, please see the following link: http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php

UVIC’S ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations (https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

UVIC POSITIVITY AND SAFETY STATEMENT
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing, and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

COURSE POLICY ON RECORDING OF LECTURES AND USE OF COURSE MATERIALS
According to the university’s Intellectual Property Policy (GV0215), professors and instructors are the authors of their original course materials, lecture notes, and lecture presentations. Accordingly, they own copyright in these materials. Occasionally, students enrolled in a course may ask to record lectures because they would like to review the material at a future date. A lecture constitutes an instructor’s intellectual property. A student must get permission to record the lecture from their instructor. Any material for the course (e.g., lecture notes, PowerPoints, syllabus, including a recording of a lecture) is made solely for the use of the student registered in the course for research and private study only. These materials must not be posted online or shared with other students without the instructor’s permission. In some cases, a student with a perceptual disability will be eligible for an academic accommodation to record a lecture. Please visit the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) website for more information. You should be aware that there are policies and legislation regarding academic accommodation. Should you have any questions please contact the Copyright Office.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC
UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119
Phone: 250.721.8021
Email: svccoordinator@uvic.ca
Web: uvic.ca/svp
COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEYS (CES)
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Below is the course schedule for the entire semester. I will do my best to stick to this schedule, although I do reserve the right to make changes if necessary.

Course Schedule

Week 1
Thursday, September 5: Course overview
No assigned readings

Week 2
Monday, September 9: The North American urban experience in global context
Readings

Thursday, September 12: Urban historical transformations I
Readings

Week 3
Monday, September 16: Urban historical transformations II
Readings

Thursday, September 19: Discussion of readings and group research project
Readings

*NOTE:* Please be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by Peterson, Whittemore, and Robinson during class today (Thur., Sept. 19).
Week 4
Monday, September 23: Film—Citizen Jane: Battle for the City
Readings

*NOTE:* Proposal with bibliography for Group Research Project due today, submit via email to redwood@uvic.ca (Monday, Sept. 23).

Thursday, September 26: Film—Remember Africville, & discussion of readings
Readings

*NOTE:* Please be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by Jacobs and Loo during class today (Thur., Sept. 26).

Week 5
Monday, September 30: From modernism to the new urbanism
Readings
“Charter of Athens” (1933)

“Charter of the New Urbanism” (1999)
https://www.cnu.org/who-we-are/charter-new-urbanism

Thursday, October 3: Guest speaker—Lindsay Chase, Director of Development Services, Town of View Royal
No assigned readings

Week 6
Monday, October 7: Changing consumerscapes in the commodity world
Readings

[Note: The Parlette and Cowen reading will not be covered on the midterm exam, but it will be assessed on the final exam.]

Thursday, October 10: MIDTERM EXAM
No assigned readings

Week 7
Monday, October 14: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK
No assigned readings
Thursday, October 17: Regimes of urban governance and the politics of scale
Readings

Week 8
Monday, October 21: Spatial imaginaries in the age of neoliberal urbanism
Readings

Thursday, October 24: Discussion of readings
No assigned readings

* NOTE: Please be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by Parlette and Cowen, Horak, and Rose-Redwood et al. during class today (Thur., October 24).

Week 9
Monday, October 28: Housing, homelessness, and the politics of urban revitalization
Readings

Thursday, October 31: Film—My Brooklyn
No assigned readings

Week 10
Monday, November 4: Discussion of My Brooklyn and readings
Readings

* NOTE: Please be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by Speer and Grisdale during class today (Mon., November 4).

Thursday, November 7: Guest speaker—Diana Gibson, CEO, Community Social Planning Council
No assigned readings

Week 11
Monday, November 11: NO CLASS—READING BREAK
No assigned readings
Thursday, November 14: Cultural diversity, immigration, and urban social change

Readings

Week 12
Monday, November 18: Utopian and dystopian visions of urban futures
Readings

Thursday, November 21: Guest speaker—Jason Hackworth, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto (and City Talks speaker)
No assigned readings

Week 13
Monday, November 25: Final exam review and complete course evaluations
No assigned readings

Thursday, November 28: Group presentations
No assigned readings

Week 14
Monday, December 2: Group presentations
No assigned readings

* GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT DUE TODAY (DECEMBER 2)

* The final exam will be scheduled during finals week: time and location to be announced.

Note: September 20, 2019: Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term. October 31, 2019: Last day for withdrawing from first-term courses without penalty of failure.