

**Geography 340 – A01
Cities and Planning
University of Victoria
Fall 2019**

We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSANEC peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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Office hours:	Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00am-11:15am
Course time:	Mondays and Thursdays, 11:30am-12:50pm
Course location:	Elliott Building, Room 061

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Group Research Project	45%
Attendance	10%
Total:	100%

Grading Scale

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	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.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	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.
B	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	

C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory , or minimally satisfactory . These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

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>). 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: svpcoordinator@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

Brenner, N. and Schmid, C. (2014). "The 'Urban Age' in Question." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38(3): 731-755.

Thursday, September 12: Urban historical transformations I

Readings

Peterson, J. (2009). "The Birth of Organized City Planning in the United States, 1909-1910." *Journal of the American Planning Association* 75(2): 123-133.

Week 3

Monday, September 16: Urban historical transformations II

Readings

Whittemore, A. (2017). "The Experience of Racial and Ethnic Minorities with Zoning in the United States." *Journal of Planning Literature* 32(1): 16-27.

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

Readings

Robinson, D. (2011). "Modernism at a Crossroad: The Spadina Expressway Controversy in Toronto, Ontario, c. 1960-1971." *Canadian Historical Review* 92(2): 295-322.

* **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

Jacobs, J. (1961), “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety,” from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, R. LeGates and F. Stout (eds.), *The City Reader*, New York: Routledge, pp. 106-111.

* **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

Loo, T. (2010). “Africville and the Dynamics of State Power in Postwar Canada.” *Acadiensis* 39(2): 23-47.

* **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)

<http://portal.uur.cz/pdf/charter-of-athens-1933.pdf>

“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

Parlette, V. and Cowen, D. (2011). “Dead Malls: Suburban Activism, Local Spaces, Global Logistics.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35(4): 794-811.

[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

Horak, M. (2013). "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto." *Urban Research & Practice* 6(3): 311-328.

Week 8

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

Readings

Rose-Redwood, R., Sotoudehnia, M., and Tretter, E. (2018). "'Turn Your Brand Into a Destination': Toponymic Commodification and the Branding of Place in Dubai and Winnipeg." *Urban Geography* 40(6): 846-869.

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

Speer, J. (2017). "'It's Not Like Your Home': Homeless Encampments, Housing Projects, and the Struggle over Domestic Space." *Antipode* 49(2): 517-535.

Thursday, October 31: Film—*My Brooklyn*

No assigned readings

Week 10

Monday, November 4: Discussion of *My Brooklyn* and readings

Readings

Grisdale, S. (2019). "Displacement by Disruption: Short-Term Rentals and the Political Economy of 'Belonging Anywhere' in Toronto." *Urban Geography*, doi: 10.1080/02723638.2019.1642714

* **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

Fakhrashrafi, M., Kirk, J., and Gilbert, E. (2019). "Sanctuary Inter/rupted: Borders, Illegalization, and Unbelonging." *The Canadian Geographer* 63(1): 84-99.

Week 12

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

Readings

Leszczynski, A. (2016). "Speculative Futures: Cities, Data, and Governance Beyond Smart Urbanism." *Environment and Planning A* 48(9): 1691-1708.

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.*