

**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 WSÁNE! 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

C+	3	65-69%
C	2	60-64%

Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.

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,

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*

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

