

**Geography 340  
Cities and Planning  
University of Victoria  
Fall 2020**

*We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen 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.*

<b>Instructor:</b>	Reuben Rose-Redwood, Ph.D.
<b>Office:</b>	David Turpin Building, Room B354
<b>Telephone:</b>	(250)-721-7331
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:redwood@uvic.ca">redwood@uvic.ca</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	By appointment via Zoom
<b>Course time:</b>	Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:20pm PST
<b>Course location:</b>	Fully online and blended (mix of synchronous and asynchronous sessions)

education is important, but your health and well-being come first. If there are any health, economic, or related issues that are having a negative impact on your ability to take this course throughout the semester, please feel free to let me know, and I'll do my best to find a reasonable accommodation when possible.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to GEOG 340 <sup>2</sup> 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, 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**

- x Provide a broad overview of the key concepts and perspectives in urban geography and planning
- x Examine the main geographical processes of urbanization and the history of urban planning in North America

- x Assess the major political, economic, social, and cultural changes that have transformed contemporary urban landscapes in North America
- x Critically analyze the politics of urban development and social inequality within capitalist societies

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

### **CLASS FORMAT**

Due to COVID-19, the format for this course will be hybrid, consisting of a mix of synchronous Zoom sessions (i.e. short lectures and discussions) and asynchronous course material posted to

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Group Research Paper	30%
Group Research Presentation	20%
2 2 2 2 2 2	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> 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.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> 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>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Take-Home Midterm Exam (25%) and Take-Home Final Exam (25%)**

The course will have a take-home midterm exam (25%) and a take-home final exam (25%)

(2) **RESEARCH PRESENTATION:** Each group will give a presentation on their research paper 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).

Presentation Rubric

Presentations will be assessed in relation to the following considerations:

- a) Quality of oral delivery
- b) Quality of structure/organization
- c) Quality of the content
- d) Quality of design, aesthetic appeal, and creativity of visual aids for presentation

**OFFICE HOURS**

Since face-to-face office hours are not possible this semester, I will be holding office hours by appointment via Zoom. If you would like to speak with me about anything related to the course, your degree program, urban studies, or life generally, please feel free to send me an email ([redwood@uvic.ca](mailto:redwood@uvic.ca) D Q G Z H ¶ O O D U U D Q J H S D W L P H W K D W Z R U N V I R U

**EMAIL**

Send all email to me using the email address listed on the first page of the syllabus ([redwood@uvic.ca](mailto: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.

## **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**

## **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.

## **STUDENT WELLNESS**

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep, and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>

Health Services - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/health/>

Centre for Accessible Learning - The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

~~(OG Notices)~~ The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php>

## **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 10: Course overview

**[Zoom Class Session]**

*No assigned readings*

**Week 2**

Monday, September 14: The North American urban experience in global context

**[Zoom Class Session]**





## **Week 12**

Monday, November 23: Discussion of readings, final exam review, and course wrap-up

**[Zoom Class Session]**

*No assigned readings*

\* **NOTE:** Please be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by Fakhrashrafi et al. and Pinder as well as the film *Priced Out* during class today (Monday, Nov. 23).

Thursday, November 26: Group presentations I

**[Zoom Class Session]**

*No assigned readings*

## **Week 13**

Monday, November 30: Group presentations II

**[Zoom Class Session]**

*No assigned readings*

Thursday, December 3: Group presentations III

**[Zoom Class Session]**

*No assigned readings*

\* **NOTE: GROUP RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY (DECEMBER 3)**

\* **NOTE: The final exam will be a take-home exam due during finals period. More details to be provided in class.**

\* **NOTE: September 25, 2020: Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term.  
October 31, 2020: Last day for withdrawing from first-term courses without penalty of failure.**

---