

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 230: Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning



Contact Time	Two 1.5 hour sessions per week	
Format	Lectures and videos; guest presentations; in-class exercises	
Class Assessment	Weekly quiz (best 9 out of 10)	20%
	Mid-term test	20% Week 7
	Final test	20% after Week 12
	One -page paper proposal for term paper	5% Week 9
	Term paper - six-page plan comparison	25%; after Week 12
	Attendance, class exercises and participation	10%

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides a broad overview of urban and regional planning, one of the most exciting professions in Canada today. Every Canadian municipality has a land use plan for its future, from the smallest villages in Nunavut to Toronto. The course will critically examine these community plans, which usually include measures to improve the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of their settlements and are guides for infrastructure investment.

Some of the questions that will be addressed in the course include:

- How did Canadian community planning evolve over the past century?
- How does community planning work today and who participates in it?
- How are diverse residents of these communities involved in plan preparation and what are their motivations and interests?
- Are the results of the urban development process socially, economically, or environmentally sustainable?
- What is the technical analysis behind the plans and the difficult tasks involved in implementing them?

The course highlights international examples that have affected Canadian practice but focuses upon Canadian communities.

PRE-REQUISITE: Second year standing in any Faculty; may be taken as an option or part of the [Certificate in Urban Planning Studies](#)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

To complete this course students will demonstrate their ability to:

1. Identify and describe some major trends in urban and regional planning from prehistoric times to the present.
2. Identify and classify important historical plan precedents from maps and drawings.
3. Understand the evolution of Canadian community planning from social, environmental, and regulatory perspectives.
4. Identify and define key terms and concepts from different interdisciplinary fields that intersect with planning practice.
5. Develop a basic familiarity with some of the tools and techniques planners employ in their work.
6. Compare and critically assess the quality of contemporary community plans.

COURSE TOPICS

Contemporary community planning from the perspectives of social sciences, planning and real estate development. Emphasis on understanding actors in the process and creating projects that are socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

1. *Foundations of Canadian Community Planning:* Need for community planning; Beginning of today's cities; 19th century foundations of Canadian communities; Pioneering community planning in Canada, 1900–1950; Planning for the exploding metropolis, 1950–
2. *Community Plan-Making in Canada:* Steps in the plan-making process; Planning regional and metropolitan communities; Urban community plans; Small towns in rural and northern regions
3. *Planning for People & Places in the Community:* Neighbourhood and district plans; Infrastructure systems; Planning for diverse and healthy communities (includes planning with Indigenous Peoples)
4. *Participants and Participation in Community Planning:* Process and practice
5. *Implementing Community Plans:* Land-use regulation tools; Policy tools
6. *Future of Community Planning in Canada:* Role of the planner; Future challenges

REQUIRED COURSE TEXT & READINGS

Gerald Hodge, David Gordon & Pamela Shaw. [Planning Canadian Communities](#), 7th ed. (Toronto, Nelson, 2021).

Selected optional readings to be posted on OnQ.