

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

SURP 848 COMMUNITY DESIGN



Course Instructors		
Offices		
Contact Time		
Format	Lectures, in-class discussions, walking tours, field trips, group and individual assignments	
Class Assessment	25% individual projects, 75% group projects, final presentation, no final exam	

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course will have two key elements: research using a review of City of Kingston studies, augmented by the required course text, and a design project using a local case study. Much of the course will involve working on the project in class, assisted by the course instructors. There will be minimal use of PowerPoint presentations so students will be expected to take notes during class and participate in class discussions. Course materials include a mandatory course text as well as a notebook and sketchbook. Students will be expected to undertake in-class walking tours (wear comfortable footwear to each class) as well as field work outside of class time. Individual and group work will be required to cover deliverables for the assignments, details of which are found in the detailed course outline. The coursework involves case studies in downtown and suburban Kingston. The major project involves investigating the greyfield redevelopment of an existing shopping centre into a transit-oriented community. The coursework will experiment with the City of Kingston's innovative digital twin model of the study area. There will be a guest lecturer who is a leading Canadian practitioner of sustainable urban design.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Show the relevance of urban design to planning
- Understand the scope of urban design issues within planning in Canada, with a focus on Ontario
- Demonstrate different approaches and techniques of urban design
- Enhance students' abilities in hand-drawn and digital urban design techniques
- Develop a basic understanding of the concepts and tools available to translate planning objectives into good designs
- Demonstrate and test these concepts and tools using case studies within an existing part of suburban Kingston
- Become future planning professionals well-versed in urban design and able to be effective policy makers and project managers

COURSE TOPICS

Sustainable urban design as applied to Canadian settings, including:

- Traditional urban design practices
- Redevelopment of modernist urban design settings
- Sustainable urban design case studies (national and international)
- Review of the City of Kingston's nodes and corridors policies
- Development criteria and design guidelines
- Street and block design in urban and suburban contexts
- Public realm design
- Integration of natural systems

COURSE READINGS

The course textbook is "Dynamic Urban Design (von Hausen, 2013). Other resources will be made available during the course including on-line tutorials for SketchUp and other digital tools.