

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

SURP 848 COMMUNITY DESIGN



Course Instructors	Dr. Carl Bray
Offices	Mac Corry Hall, Room E230
Contact Time	Thursdays, 2:30-5:20
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 texts, 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 instructor. 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 two mandatory course texts 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 Kingston that are part of an exciting project that is currently underway and projected to re-start this year. The North King's Town Secondary Plan is being prepared by a consulting team retained by the City (full disclosure: I am a member of that team). 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
- 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 downtown Kingston
- Become future planning professionals who are versed in urban design and able to be effective policy makers and project managers

COURSE TOPICS

Sustainable urban design as applied to Canadian settings.

- Traditional urban design practices
- Modernist urban design
- Sustainable urban design case studies (international)
- Review of North Kings Town draft Secondary Plan
- Development criteria and design guidelines
- Street and block design
- Public realm design
- Integration of natural systems
- Elementary drawing and observational skills

COURSE READINGS The course textbooks are “Rebuilding Earth” (Coady, 2020) and “Dynamic Urban Design (von Hausen, 2013). Other resources will be made available during the course.