

SCHOOL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
Department of Geography and Planning
Queen's University at Kingston

FALL 2022

SURP 814 Foundations of Contemporary Planning
Classes: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:30-11:00 am
Office hours 11-noon Tuesdays and Fridays

Course Instructor: [David Gordon](#)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course combines an examination of historical ideas that provide foundations for Canadian planning with an overview of current best practices in contemporary community planning. Urban and regional planning is taken to be a broad, multi-disciplinary field that includes many diverse threads of activities and beliefs, but which are held together by common concepts and values.

The first half of the course is about planning ideas -- ideas that have been used to plan cities and regions. As such, it does not focus on histories of urban development or planning or, indeed, the planning profession, although aspects of these topics will enter our discussions. Instead, this section of the course emphasizes the origins and evolution of historical and contemporary ideas that provide the foundations of contemporary Canadian planning practice in its various forms. land use, urban development, the environment, health, housing and human services.

The second half of the course provides a broad overview of the contemporary practice of community planning in Canada. It has three sections that are similar to the MPL degree's areas of concentration: Health & Social Planning; Environmental Services and Land Use & Real Estate. We will review case-studies of award-winning plans and hear from alumni who practice in each stream.

The course structure selected to cover this material includes lectures, discussions and presentations. Class discussions will be conducted in a variety of formats, varying from week to week, and ranging from case analyses and debates to formal presentations. Optional walking tours and field trips will enrich the course, subject to public health regulations and constraints.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. have advanced their knowledge of the histories of human settlements in Canada
2. be able to identify foundational ideas used in planning practice in Canada.
3. be able to discern between the quality of the implementation of ideas in diverse contexts.
4. have communicated planning ideas concisely through presentations and through active engagement and discussion with peers.

The course is also specifically designed to develop the following [competencies required for planners](#) by the [Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession](#) in Canada:

Functional Competencies:

- *History and Principles of Community Planning*: History of Planning in Canada and other countries; Understand the history of small and large-scale community planning; Understand the historical evolution of community planning as a function of government, as a professional activity, and as a reform movement; Planning principles and practices; New developments in planning
- *Human Settlement*: Forms, scales and settings of human settlements; Processes and factors of change in human settlements
- *Government and Law*: Political and institutional frameworks of planning
- *Issues in Planning and Policy-Making*: Environmental, social and economic sustainability; Equity, diversity and inclusiveness; Public finance and economic

Enabling Competencies:

- *Professionalism*: Learning from practice
- *Communication*: Oral communication
- *Social Interaction and Leadership*: Inclusion of diverse people and values

EVALUATION

Active, skilled class participation (including posting and classroom)	30%
Individual in-class presentation (details in OnQ)	20%
Group Presentation (details in onQ)	20%
Test (Date TBA Dec 12-19)	30%
Total	100%

Participation: For each week of class, students will be awarded up to 2% for their preparation for class by engaging with the assigned readings and their participation in discussions in onQ (best 10 of 11 weeks). Another 10% is available for participation during class time.

Individual Presentation (20%)— a five-minute presentation to the class on the ideas in a plan with a one-page handout. Details in onQ.

Group Presentation (20%): A group will plan and deliver a 90-minute class featuring best practices in health & social planning; environmental planning or land use & real estate. Details in onQ.

Test: (30%; Date TBA December 12-19)

Two-hour, closed-book test in MC E230. Students will choose three questions out of five or six provided; each question will be worth 10% of the final grade.

Questions will address Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 above. Sample questions will be posted in OnQ.

Required Readings

Required readings are assigned for each week. Please come prepared to analyse and discuss the assigned topics and readings on the week that they are being discussed. There is one course textbook. Other readings are posted on the course onQ site for reading / printing. Some texts are also available on reserve through Stauffer Library - see where indicated on the course syllabus.

Required Text (on sale at Campus Bookstore)

Hodge, Gerald, David Gordon and Pamela Shaw (2021). *Planning Canadian Communities*, 7th edition (Toronto: Nelson). (approx. \$130). This book was written specifically for this course and will also be used in SURP 840.

Book website: PlanningCanadianCommunities.ca

Recommended Texts (for sale at Campus Bookstore; chapters on-line; links in onQ)

Hall, Peter (2014) *Cities of Tomorrow*, 4th Edition (London: Basil Blackwell); (approx. \$66). Also available digitally from Stauffer Library.

Sewell, John (1993). *The Shape of the City* (Toronto: U of T Press); (approx. \$31) Also available digitally from Stauffer Library. This book will be particularly interesting to students from the Greater Toronto area.

All other readings will be posted on the course onQ site or are available in the *Plan Canada* CIP 100th Anniversary issue that will be provided to students.

Approach to the Readings

This course represents a melding of different approaches to the course material and processes. There will be readings assigned for each session and a suggested chronology will sometimes be provided in onQ (i.e. if your readings are numbered, the first reading listed should be read before the second and so on to get an overview of the evolution of relevant ideas). Both required and recommended readings are listed in onQ for many sessions.

While there is much written on planning histories, it is often a challenge to locate appropriate material framed within a Canadian context. The featured readings emphasize Canadian writers but also include some material from outside Canada, which are important contributions to historical discussions of planning ideas and contemporary practice. Similarly, the cases selected to illustrate best contemporary practices are mainly chosen from award-winning Canadian plans for diverse locations and peoples.

SURP 814 - FALL 2022 CLASS SCHEDULE

Session	Date	Topic	Session	Date	Topic
1A	Sept 6	What is planning?	1B	Sept 9	No class; Regent Park videos
	Sunday Sept 11	Optional Kingston Walking Tour 2:30			
2A	Sept 13	Urban histories 1	2B	Sept 16	Urban histories 2
3A	Mon Sept 19	Ideal Communities: Garden Cities and Garden Suburbs	3B	Sept 23	Ideal Communities: City Beautiful and Broadacre City
	Tues-Thur Sept 21-22	Optional OPPI Conference London			
4A	Sept 27	Parks Movement	4B	Sept 30	City Scientific and Comprehensive Planning
5A	Oct 4	Modernism: Urban	5B	Oct 7	Modernism: Suburbs
Reading week				Friday Oct 14	Optional Montreal Walking Tour
6A	Mon Oct 17	Jane Jacobs and Postmodern Urbanism	6B	Tues Oct 18	Social & Health planning: Histories
7A	Oct 25	Health and Social planning: Current best practices (Group)	7B	Oct 28	Health and Social Planning: Alumni panel
8A	Mon Oct 31	Environmental planning: Histories	8B	Tues Nov 1	Regional planning and smart growth
9A	Nov 8	Environmental planning: Current best practices (Group)	9B	<i>Nov 11*</i>	Environmental planning: Alumni panel
10A	Nov 15	Postmodern urbanism: Canada	10B	Nov 18	Land Use and Real Estate: Current best practices (Group)
11A	Mon Nov 21	Postmodern suburbs 1	11B	Tues Nov 22	Land Use and Real Estate: Alumni panel
12A	Nov 29	Postmodern suburbs 2	12B	Dec 2	Course review and wrap-up

*Nov 11 class will start at 9 AM to accommodate Remembrance Day service

Note: Classes highlighted in **Red** are outside of typical Tuesday and Friday class schedule. See onQ