

SCHOOL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
SURP 861: Healthy Community Planning
Winter 2024

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The rising prevalence of chronic diseases that have built environment links, such as obesity, heart disease, cancer and depression, has stimulated calls for reconnecting public health and urban planning in both pedagogy and practice. This interdisciplinary course aims to facilitate this reconnection by engaging students through in-depth examinations of the determinants of health and well-being at the local level. Various dimensions of communities and cities will be interrogated for their health-promoting and impeding qualities; key debates and best practices for healthy community planning will be considered; viable options for creating healthier communities will be formulated; and proposals for evaluating the health impacts of interventions will be developed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Recognize the multiple domains through which built environments influence health to facilitate more comprehensive approaches to planning for healthy communities.
- Identify the challenges to planning and designing healthy communities, and develop strategies for overcoming those challenges.
- Propose options for addressing a problem that has implications for community health.
- Develop a plan for assessing the health impacts of a community-level proposal.
- Develop skills in group facilitation and writing for policy-maker audiences.

COURSE FORMAT

This will be an interactive seminar-style course, involving student-facilitated discussions, guest lectures, and other in-class activities. Some classes will be supplemented with lectures from the course instructor. Students are expected to attend all class meetings having completed the assigned readings, and ready to participate in discussion.

EVALUATION

20%	Engagement
25%	Facilitated Discussion
25%	Midterm Assignment: Briefing Note
30%	Final Assignment: HIA Screening & Scoping Analysis