DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

SURP 848 COMMUNITY DESIGN

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 into design precedents, 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 the required course text as well as a notebook and sketchbook. Students will be expected to undertake walking tours (wear comfortable footwear to each class) as well as field work outside of class time. Students should also be able to use SketchUp and ArcGIS, so please take tutorials before the start of term.

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 preparing designs for redeveloping portions of a prison farm into a sustainable urban neighbourhood, based on research material from a development feasibility study prepared previously for the property. 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 surplus public property
- Sustainable urban design case studies (national and international)
- Review of City of Kingston, Provincial and Federal sustainable development policies and guidelines
- Use of development criteria and design guidelines to produce urban design plans
- Integration of natural systems within urban development

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, GIS and other digital tools.