

## GPHY 336 – Geography, the Environment, and Human Health

Disclaimer: Not a final version.

\*Contact time, format, and assessment methods are subject to change.\*

<b>Contact Time</b>	1.5hr lectures & 1.5hr tutorials every other week		
<b>Format</b>	Lectures, tutorials, onQ discussions, group-based projects, fieldwork		
<b>Class Assessment</b>	Class Preparation & Participation	20%	Throughout the term
	GIS Assignment	20%	Early in term
	Built Environment Audit Assignment	30%	Mid term
	Term Paper	30%	End of term

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course exposes students to the numerous ways in which the spaces and places we live, work, and play shape human health. The focus of the course is on the health impacts of built environments, since the built form has tremendous implications on our social relations and the conditions of natural environments. The course begins by examining historical connections between health and the environment, and the importance of changing conceptualizations of disease on community planning and design. Students learn about various domains through which local environments impact health, as well as contemporary approaches to creating spaces and places that support healthy living for all.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To recognize and explain the connections between human health, determinants of health, and place
  - To interpret and explain health disparities as they relate to place and local environmental conditions
  - To evaluate the potential health impacts of the built environments they encounter everyday
  - To predict how local environmental conditions may contribute to population health disparities
- To review academic and non-academic literature, conduct field observations, and communicate in written, oral, and virtual formats with greater ease and confidence.

### COURSE TOPICS

Historical connections between health and local environmental conditions; diseases and health issues linked to local environments; health implications of local environments (e.g., neighbourhoods, transportation systems, housing, workplaces and schools, food, water, and air); local environments and vulnerable populations; approaches to creating healthier spaces and places. Emphasis will be placed on the Canadian context.

### SELECTED COURSE TEXTS & READINGS

All course readings will be made available on OnQ throughout the semester.

A subscription to TopHat may be required.