COURSE OVERVIEW
This course examines the structure of cities and the factors that give them shape. The main objective is for students to understand, explain, and predict changes in land-use patterns as they are influenced by land markets and planning efforts. The course will help students assess the economic, socioeconomic, social, political and cultural implications of changes in city structure and the role of planning in urban development. During the course we will explore the interconnections within the complex systems that make up the modern city.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On successful completion of the course, a student should be able to:
1. Critically review academic literature related to urban and regional economies and inequalities
2. Analyze contemporary urban economic issues at multiple spatial scales
3. Present and analyze complex concepts in written and verbal formats

COURSE TOPICS
The course will present the concepts that explain the spatial structure and development of cities. The economics of land development and planning will be examined through a range of issues and topics including: the causes and consequences of gentrification, studentification, suburbanization, and vacant and abandoned land, and the effects of globalization, short-term rentals, changes in transportation costs and options, and migration. Topics will be discussed in a range of Canadian and international urban contexts including global, shrinking, and gateway cities. Throughout the course we will consider how the economics of land development and planning are associated with, driven by, and perpetuate racial, ethnic, gender, age and other inequalities.

SELECTED COURSE READINGS