

Course format and evaluation scheme are subject to change, depending on the status of Queen's University reopening for the Winter 2021 semester.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING
SURP 861: Healthy Community Planning
Winter 2021

Course instructor: Patricia Collins, PhD
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Class schedule: TBD
Location: TBD

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 public health and urban planning students through in-depth examinations of the determinants of health and well-being at the local level. Moving from the macro to micro, 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 public health to facilitate more comprehensive approaches to planning for healthy communities.
- Understand the languages and perspectives employed within public health and urban planning to encourage more meaningful collaborations between these fields in practice.
- Recognize the impediments that values, interests, and institutions can pose to planning, designing, and maintaining healthy communities.
- 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.

COURSE FORMAT**

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

EVALUATION SCHEME**

20% Class Preparation and Participation
20% Group Assignment: Facilitated Discussion
20% Midterm Assignment: Briefing Note
15% Final Assignment Part 1: HIA Screening Analysis
25% Final Assignment Part 2: HIA Scoping Analysis