**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 identify historical and contemporary links between human health, health determinants, and place at the local level
- To understand the interplay between local environmental conditions and how they combine to impact on health
- To develop analytical skills for predicting how local environments may contribute to population health disparities
- To hone scholarly skills in reviewing literature, conducting field observations, written and oral communication

**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 will be required.