GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 337/3.0 - Regional Development and Planning

Course Instructor: Dr. Sarah Minnes  
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Office: E320 in Mac-Corry Hall
Contact Time: Two 1.5 hour lectures per week
Format: Lectures, guest presentations, discussions, and interactive learning opportunities

Class Assessment
- Reading Responses: 20%
- Regional Plan Evaluation and Analysis Case Study: 25%
- Policy Brief on Case Study Recommendations: 20%
- Final Take Home Exam: 35%

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course will examine regional development and planning through an analysis of the various definitions of regions, regional planning and development theories, the regional development process, and regional policies/plans. During the course, participants will consider different notions and models of ‘the region’; the implication of these definitions to policy development; and the idea of regional planning. While the primary focus is on Canadian regions, some examples in the course will be international. These concepts will be examined through lectures, guest lectures, discussions, interactive learning, assignments, and one final take home exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Develop a critical understanding of key themes, concepts, and theoretical approaches related to regional policy development and practice;
- Summarize the history and context of regional development and planning in Canada;
- Formulate policy recommendations regarding regional development and planning efforts;
- Develop a set of analytical and practical skills (e.g., writing skills, ability to formulate policy recommendations) that will assist not only with the analysis of the material in the course but throughout their academic and professional careers.

COURSE TOPICS
The course will explore a wide range of topics related to regional development and planning (from a holistic perspective). This includes (but is not limited to): defining regions; the history of regional planning and development in Canada; regional policy making; planning metropolitan and rural regions; Indigenous planning and governance and regional development; economic development; environmental planning; regional health and wellness; watershed planning; infrastructure planning; tourism planning; transportation planning; and regional development and planning in the face of climate change.

COURSE READINGS
Students will read one to two selections of either journal articles, book chapters, and/or regional policies and plans every week. All course readings will be made available on OnQ throughout the semester. Samples of course readings include selected chapters from the following books: