

JGI 346

The Urban Planning Process in Canada



Fall 2015

Lectures: Tuesdays, Noon – 2 p.m.
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 1069

Instructor: Wendy Burton

Office: Sidney Smith Hall, Room 5060
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30 – 4 p.m. or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of how planning tools and practice shape the built form of cities. The course introduces the historical, legal, social, and political structures and contexts that shape cities, suburbs and regions. The focus is on the Toronto region and the Canadian experience, with comparative examples from other countries, primarily the United States and the United Kingdom.

Recommended Preparation: 8.0 FCE's including GGR124H1, INI235Y1

Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Social Science course

Breadth Requirement: Society and its Institutions (3)

Course Objectives:

- To acquire a general understanding of the historic origins and contemporary practice of urban planning
- To understand the role of planning as a function of government
- To develop a basic understanding of common planning tools such as zoning, Official Plans, and design guidelines
- To be able to identify and critique the fundamental conflicts of rights and values that make planning an inherently political activity
- To be able to analyze and discuss how planning has shaped the physical form of the city around you by reading course material, examining planning documents and observing a neighbourhood environment.

Course Requirements and Grading

Guidelines for the preparation of the assignments and for the assessment of your work will be handed out separately. Marks will be based on the following:

Parcel report*	15%	Oct. 13
Meeting report*	20%	Nov. 3
Planning Issues paper proposal	10%	Nov. 17
Planning Issues paper*	25%	Dec. 8
Final exam	30%	TBD (Dec. 11-22)

Details:

Parcel report: Students will visit a public space for two hours (one hour at a busy time, half hour at a slow time, half hour in the evening) to observe how (well) the space is used, by whom, etc. (No photography, videography, audio recording or human contact is allowed, as ethics permissions have not been obtained for this course.) Students will write two pages (500-750 words) in the form of a planning report to council. A template and workshop on doing field work will be provided in class.

Meeting report: Students will visit a planning meeting of their choice for two hours. Students will take notes during the meeting (no audio or video recording allowed) and write a short paper (max. four pages; approx. 1,000 words) about the nature of the meeting or hearing, policies and participants involved, key issues discussed, strengths and weakness of the process, and impact: how could this meeting help shape the city? You will relate your observations and reflections to three texts (e.g., two scholarly book chapters or journal articles and one non-academic source). Although papers are not due until Nov. 3, students who wish to have this grade returned before the final drop date of Nov. 8 must submit their papers by Oct. 27.

Planning Issues paper proposal: The proposal (max. two pages) will include a clear statement of the planning issue being examined and an annotated bibliography with at least three sources (two academic and one non-academic source) relevant to the issue being studied and detailing how they will be used in the final paper.

Planning Issues paper: The paper (max. eight pages of double-spaced text; approx. 2,000 words) will explore a contemporary or historical planning issue that is specific to a place within Ontario, preferably the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The issue may be at any scale: a single parcel of land (e.g., a redevelopment project), a street (e.g., a proposal for bike lanes), a neighbourhood (e.g., a proposed heritage conservation district designation), a city-wide initiative (e.g., public input on transit priorities), or the region (e.g., impact of the Greenbelt on housing costs).

Final Exam: The date and time of the final exam will be available in mid-October. The exam will be three hours and will feature short answer and essay questions based on the lectures and readings. A study guide will be provided at the last class.

Required Readings

The following textbook is available in hard copy and as an e-book through the U of T Bookstore. One copy has been put on course reserve at Robarts Library, 4th floor. If you are using an older edition, you may want to compare your edition with the current one.

Hodge, Gerald and Gordon, David. 2014. *Planning Canadian Communities: An Introduction to the Principles, Practice, and Participants*. 6th ed. Toronto: Nelson.

Additional readings will be available through Blackboard.

NB: I reserve the right to make minor modifications to the readings and assignments.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a reliable signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The U of T's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Quotation marks are required when using an author's words, and citation is still required when paraphrasing another person's ideas. For guidance, see <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
- Making up sources or facts
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids, including a cell phone
- Looking at someone else's answers or sharing answers during an exam or test
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In general:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have questions or concerns about research and citation methods, contact me or consult <http://sites.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html>.

Course Management

Due dates & Turnitin: All assignments are due at the start of class and must be submitted in hard copy. *Asterisked assignments are to be submitted to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. Students who wish to opt out of Turnitin will need to annotate their bibliographies and provide written notes and draft versions of assignments.

Late assignments: Once class has started, your assignment is late and submission needs to be completed electronically for a time stamp, with a follow-up hard copy submitted through the Drop Box in the Geography Main Office, SSH 5047 (open M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). You should arrive by 4:45 p.m. to ensure your paper gets into the box before it is locked. A late penalty of 5% (of the assignment grade) will be deducted for each weekday that an assignment is late (weekends count as one day). Normally, assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date.

Extensions: If you have missed a deadline or need an extension due to illness, please send me a completed U of T medical certificate. If there are other reasons, contact me as soon as possible to discuss options and other forms of documentation I may require (e.g., letter from your college registrar or from Accessibility Services). If you're not sure what to do, don't suffer in silence: contact me or the TA.

Paper trails: Print double-sided and number your pages so I know if something is missing. Keep an electronic copy of your work in case something goes amiss.

Contact: Besides emergencies, minor enquiries are suitable for contacting me by email. For more important questions, for example, about an assignment or a concept discussed in the course, please visit me during office hours or schedule a meeting. I check my U of T email every weekday. I will try to respond within 24 hours but if I have not responded within 48 hours, re-send your email. Include the course code (JGI 346) in the subject line and use a U of T email address.

Course Website: Selected readings, resources for assignments and other course materials will be posted on Blackboard (<https://portal.utoronto.ca>). Students enrolled in the course should be able to see the link once they enter the Learning Portal using their UTORID and password. Information on using Blackboard is available at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students> or by emailing portal.help@utoronto.ca.

Accessibility Needs: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060 or accessibility.utoronto.ca.

Course Schedule: The Urban Planning Process in Canada

Week 1: Sept. 15

Introduction & Overview: Urban Form in History

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 1, "The Need for Community Planning" (16 pp.)

Week 2: Sept. 22

The 19th Century City & the Origins of Modern Planning

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 2, "The Beginnings of Today's Cities" (19 pp.)
- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 3, "19th Century Foundations of Canadian Communities" (31 pp.)

Week 3: Sept. 29

Field Work Workshop

The Early 20th Century City: Visions & Reforms

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 4, "Pioneering Community Planning in Canada, 1900-1945" (39 pp.)
- Walker and Gunn, "Public Space in the City Centre," selected pages
- *Video: The Social Life of Small Urban Places*

Week 4: Oct. 6

The Post-War City & Growth in Community Planning

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 5, "The Growth of Canadian Community Planning, 1945-2010" (26 pp.)
- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 6, "Components of Community Plan-Making" (21 pp.)
- Fainstein, "New Directions in Planning Theory" (27 pp.)

Week 5: Oct. 13

Parcel Report due

Regional Planning

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 8, "Planning Regional and Metropolitan Communities" (24 pp.)
- The Greenbelt Plan
- Places to Grow

Week 6: Oct. 20

The Legal Framework: Tools of the Trade

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 9, "The Urban Community Plan: Its Characteristics and Role" (26 pp.)
- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 16, "Land Use Regulation Tools for Plan Implementation" (27 pp.)
- Makuch, Craik and Leisk, "Planning and Plans" (30 pp.)

Week 7: Oct. 27

Citation Workshop

Community Planning: Planning for Different Uses

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 7, "Focus on Natural and Built Environments" (24 pp.)
- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 11, "Planning for Special Places: Neighbourhood and District Plans" (23 pp.)

Week 8: Nov. 3

Meeting Report due

The Social Context: Demographics, Diversity & Health

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 13, "Planning for Diverse and Healthy Communities" (30 pp.)
- Jonah Lehrer, "How the City Hurts Your Brain" (4 pp.)

BREAK: Nov. 10 (No class)

Week 9: Nov. 17

Paper Proposal due

Planning for Infrastructure

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 12, "Planning Infrastructure Systems to Connect Communities" (20 pp.)
- El-Geneidy et al, "Transport and Land-Use Interactions in Cities" (20 pp.)
- *Case Study: Toronto Transit*

Week 10: Nov. 24

Planning for Affordability

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 17, "Policy Tools for Plan Implementation" (16 pp.)
- Pamela Blais, *Perverse Cities*, selected pages
- *Case Study: Costing Parkland in Richmond Hill*

Week 11: Dec. 1

Planning in the Political City

- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 14, "Deciding Upon the Community's Plan" (21 pp.)
- Hodge & Gordon, Ch. 15, "The Texture of Participation in Community Planning" (20 pp.)
- *Case Study: Planning North Oakville*

Week 12: Dec. 8

Paper due

Planning for the Future City

- Hodge & Gordon, Epilogue, "Community Planning in Canada and the Future" (18 pp.)
- *Exam Review*