

Syllabus: PLA 1656

Land Use Planning: Principles and Practice

Monday / 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Virtual Seminars – Synchronous

Instructors

Jeffrey Cantos, MCIP, RPP, PLE and Renée Gomes, MCIP, RPP

Instructor Email: planning1656@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mondays 8:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to the statutory and non-statutory components of the planning process, including issues and implications of various planning policies and tools, and the role and responsibilities of key stakeholders. The course provides students with a foundation in the planning framework in Ontario, through a review of the intent of legislation and policy, and a critical discussion of the application of policy to current issues and case studies. With an emphasis on several issues of relevance to municipalities in the Toronto region, it also reviews planning approaches from cities around the world. The course focuses on land-use planning, including key considerations and issues in the planning process, such as post-COVID recovery and progressive planning practices, such as anti-racism and planning with equity as an objective. The course will also explore the implications of recent changes to Provincial legislation (e.g., Bill 108 and the Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019) and to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should have a foundational understanding of Ontario's planning system, including how to:

- Identify and navigate Provincial planning policy documents
- Interpret Official Plans and other relevant local policy documents
- Identify appropriate planning instruments to implement land use planning decisions
- Identify and evaluate key considerations when forming a professional planning opinion on land use planning matters
- Undertake due diligence and prepare a defensible land use plan

Students should also develop a greater understanding of current issues and challenges with Ontario's planning system.

Relationship to Planning Program Mission

This course aims to advance students' understanding of the planning process, particularly those statutory and non-statutory components of the Ontario planning framework that are intended to be applied to create and support livable, equitable, and sustainable communities. The course also invites students to examine the challenges and limitations of the planning framework. A key

objective of the course is to provide students with a foundational understanding of the intent and structure of the planning decision-making process so that they may engage with it as well-informed citizens or as professional practitioners, in order to address issues such as social justice, racism, environmental and economic sustainability in an effective way.

Course Organization

The course format is a combination of informal lectures and seminars, all of which will be offered virtually through synchronous sessions. Regular attendance and significant class participation is expected. Students are expected to have completed required readings and to be prepared for class discussions. We welcome questions and will try to accommodate requests to cover additional material, provided it does not detract from the course outline. If you have questions that we cannot answer we will try to refer you to other sources of information.

Submissions

Students will submit assignments via email to planning1656@gmail.com.

Assignments and Evaluation

Key Dates

Provide a list of assignments, include weighting and due dates in the following format:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. Assignment 1—Equity-based land use planning | 20% | October 4, 2021 |
| 2. Assignment 2—Major Paper (10-12 pages) | 30% | December 14 to 17, 2021 |
| 3. Assignment 3—Group Project (two parts) | | |
| a. Part 1—Due diligence | 15% | November 22, 2021 |
| b. Part 2—Proposal and planning rationale | 20% | December 13, 2021 |

Assignment Details

Assignment 1 – Equity-based land use planning

Due date: October 4 and weight: 20%

The application of an equity lens to land use planning aims to develop transformative policies and practices that identify and remove barriers for marginalized and vulnerable people. The City of Toronto is currently undertaking its Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) of its Official Plan and intends to update its 30-year land-use vision to address the various disparities experienced across the city.

There are two options for exploring equity-based land use planning considerations through Assignment 1:

Option 1: Select a municipality outside Toronto (which may be outside Canada) that applies an equity lens to its land use planning policies and practices. Review key effective approaches, practices, or policies from the municipality's Official Plan (or an equivalent planning policy document) that reflect the equity-based approach to planning. Write a three-page (750-word) memo to Toronto's Chief Planner that summarizes the selected policies or planning practices from your chosen municipality, including an explanation of their purpose, intent, and challenges or limitations, and recommend policy directions that the City Planning Division should consider

as part of the MCR, with acknowledgement of the potential limitations of the recommended approach.

Option 2: Select a municipality in Ontario, which may include the City of Toronto, and review a chapter or section of its Official Plan with an equity lens i.e. consideration of how equity issues are (or are not adequately) addressed or could be impacted by the policies in that section. Write a three-page (750-word) memo to your selected municipality's Chief Planner, summarizing your findings and including recommendations for policy directions that should be considered as part of that municipality's next MCR, with the intent of promoting equity, and acknowledging potential limitations of the recommended approach.

For both options, depending on the extent to which your selected municipality applies equity-based policies and practices, and considering the breadth and complexity of potentially relevant equity considerations, it may be appropriate to discuss only a handful of policies or, if applicable, only one key approach. The breadth of information you select to highlight should be sufficient to inform impactful recommendations that are relevant to the selected municipality. Your recommendations should reflect consideration of the Provincial policy framework and an understanding of a municipality's authority and responsibility for delivering an Official Plan, as set out in the Planning Act.

Interviews are not required and should not be undertaken for this assignment. Note that the focus of this assignment is on policies and practices as they pertain to land use planning policy and decisions.

Assignment 2 – Major Paper (10-12 pages)

Due date: December 14 -17 and weight: 30%

Select a city in the province of Ontario, and a planning issue or proposal that is currently the subject of debate or controversy in that city. Assume that you are a planner working for the City/municipality. Describe the issue or proposal to an audience of non-planners, and provide a critical discussion of the potential of the statutory planning framework to address the key issues of concern or controversy.

In your paper:

1. Discuss the municipal and provincial planning policy and legislative context as it applies to your selected issue (with respect to only this planning policy issue);
2. Describe the primary tools that are available through the statutory planning framework for addressing and evaluating the proposal or issue, as well as the non-statutory planning tools that could be applied to this issue. This description should include a discussion of the processes the municipality and/or other authorities are undertaking, or plan to undertake, for analysis and decision-making with respect to the proposal;
3. Discuss the complexity of stakeholder considerations and interests that a planner would need to weigh when forming an opinion with respect to your selected issue, in your selected municipality. In developing your understanding of stakeholder interests and relevant issues, interview individuals who represent at least two of the following categories: land development, local government (Councillor's office), land ownership, local residents' or business association, or another interested stakeholder group;
4. Discuss the primary equity considerations of relevance to the planning issue, as applicable;

5. Comment on the extent to which the planning framework can be used to address the key issues related to the proposal (including stakeholder and equity-related issues), and discuss the potential limitations of the planning framework to address the issues;

Students are required to fulfill any applicable ethics review and participant consent requirements. Considering the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, interviews should take place over the phone or online. Students are strongly encouraged to review their proposed Major Paper topics with the course instructors prior to proceeding, to ensure their selected topics are appropriate for this assignment.

Potential Major Paper planning policy issues (this list is not exhaustive):

1. Affordable housing provision;
2. Rental housing provision;
3. Development of “big box” large-format retail;
4. Retention (or demolition) of older buildings;
5. Location of supportive social services and facilities (crisis care shelters, addiction-related clinics, etc.);
6. Public transit provision or expansion;
7. Greenfield development;
8. Retention or conversion of designated Employment Lands;
9. Redevelopment of large retail sites;
10. Intensification around transit stations;
11. Parkland provision and dedication;
12. Urban boundary expansion.

Assignment 3 – Group Project: Master Planning

Part One Due date: November 22 and weight: 15%

Part Two Due date: December 13 and weight: 20%

Form groups of four to prepare a development proposal for a site that will be assigned to you. The proposal should be one that you consider to be representative of good planning. In preparing your development proposal, consider the local context, applicable policies, stakeholder input, and other relevant considerations.

This project has two components:

1. Due diligence

On November 22, each group will deliver a 10-minute presentation, followed by questions and answers from the class and course lecturers. Each due diligence presentation must include the following components:

- Overview of local context;
- Analysis of all relevant legislation, policies, regulations, guidelines and standards;
- Description of relevant precedents and recent approvals.

2. Proposal and planning rationale

On December 13, each group will present their respective proposal, including an explanation and discussion of proposed by-law amendments (and/or any other required municipal development approvals), and provide a planning rationale for the proposal.

Your planning rationale presentation must include the following components:

- Overview of proposal (conceptual design, size, mix of uses, etc. Detailed designs and graphic representations are not required.)
- Description of the requested approvals
- Outline of the proposed amendments
- Outline of Toronto Green Standard compliance
- Discussion of area precedents/approvals
- Discussion of Growth Plan conformity
- S37 and/or 45 considerations/proposal, if appropriate
- Any other planning consideration that may be applicable
- Discussion of why the proposal represents good planning

Presentations are to be a maximum of 15 minutes, followed by time for questions and answers. Each presentation should be accompanied by a one-page (double-sided) overview of the development proposal and the key points of the planning rationale. The overview is to be submitted together with a copy of the presentation, a completed development approval application form, and a completed Toronto Green Standard Checklist.

Participation

15% based on in-class participation

Regular and consistent attendance and participation is expected. This course involves collaborative work and in-class discussions with other students and instructors. Students may be called upon to pose questions to the class, facilitate discussions, or answer questions, with respect to assigned readings. Students who are unable to attend class each week should inform the instructors as early as possible.

Late Policies

Assignments and projects are due on the date indicated. Unless otherwise indicated, assignments are to be submitted electronically to planning1656@gmail.com. A late penalty of 5% per day will apply. Extensions without penalty will be granted for reasons of accommodation, illness or emergencies when appropriate documentation is submitted to the instructors in a timely manner. Reweighting of assignments/grades is not permitted.

Required Text

Researching and learning to find information is an important part of this course, as it reflects the responsibilities of a planner in professional life. Unless otherwise noted, students should find the articles and documents included in the readings. These will be available online on publicly accessible websites, or through the University of Toronto's library system.

Links to government documents are sometimes updated and some links for the reading list may not work. Please notify us if you are unable to source the documents referenced.

Course Schedule

Week 1: September 13

Topic: Introductions to the Course and to Planning tools (Part 1 of 3)

Questions/Discussion Items:

- Lecturer Introduction; Student introductions; Course overview.
- What is the role of the Professional Planner? What is planning? Why planning?
- Determining the public interest;
- Who are typically the key stakeholders and actors in the planning process, and what are their roles?
- Provincial legislation and policies: Official Plans; Zoning; Secondary plans; Site Plan Control; Other implementation tools

Readings

Dragicevic, Nevena and Bruce Porter. *Human rights cities: The power and potential of local government to advance economic and social rights*. Maytree, December 2020.

Sorensen, Andre and Paul Hess. "Building suburbs, Toronto-style: land development regimes, institutions, critical junctures and path dependence" *Town Planning Review* Volume 86, Issue 4, pp. 411 – 436

Review the following key pieces of legislation and policy. You are not expected to read the complete documents but you should familiarize yourself with the purpose, structure, and general content of each. Where specific sections are mentioned, you are expected to read those sections in their entirety.

Planning Act (especially s.2 - Provincial Interest; s.16 - Official Plan; s.26 – Updating Official Plans) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90p13_e.htm

More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019 (Bill 108) (especially Schedule 9 – LPAT and Schedule 12 – Planning Act)

City of Toronto webpage with additional links to the proposed legislative changes and Toronto comments to the Province <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/bill-108-changes-to-ontarios-planning-system/>

City of Toronto Act (especially s. 111 – Land Use Planning and S. 114 – Site Plan Control) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_06c11_e.htm

Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-provincial-policy-statement-2020-accessible-final-en-2020-02-14.pdf>

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019) <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-place-to-grow-office-consolidation-en-2020-08-28.pdf>

Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan (2019) - Environmental Registry of Ontario <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1680>

Toronto comments to the Province on Growth Plan Amendments <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-154214.pdf>

City of Toronto Official Plan <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/>

City of Toronto Official Plan Review <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/official-plan-review/>

Week 2: September 20

Topic: Introductions to the Course and to Planning tools (Part 2 of 3)

Week 3: September 27

Topic: Introductions to the Course and to Planning tools (Part 3 of 3)

Week 4: October 4

Topic: Long-Term Planning and Policy Issues

Questions/Discussion Items: Growth management; Employment lands and Provincially Significant Employment Zones

Readings

Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (Section 1.3, Employment policies)

Provincially Significant Employment Zones <https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincially-significant-employment-zones>

Growth Plan (2019) and Municipal Comprehensive Review / Conformity Exercise Requirements Report <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-138428.pdf>

Toronto's Growth Plan Conformity and Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) - Work Plan <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-147670.pdf>; Chief Planner presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RuiNWsGQ3k> [go to 3:57:40]

Growth Plan Conformity Exercises / Municipal Comprehensive Reviews for other municipalities:

-York Region: <https://bit.ly/3lABFjc>

-Peel Region: <https://www.peelregion.ca/officialplan/review/>

-Durham Region: <https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/planning-for-growth.aspx>

-Hamilton: <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/official-plan-zoning-by-law/grids-2-and-municipal-comprehensive-review>

-Halton Region: <https://bit.ly/3hMtbmW>

COVID-19: Impacts and Opportunities (Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild Report) <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9133-torr-covid19-impacts-opportunities-2020.pdf>

Jackson, John. "Neoliberalism and urban planning in Toronto: how seasoned planners adjust to their changing circumstances" International Planning Studies: Volume 23, No. 2, pp. 144-162.

October 11: Thanksgiving Day - University closed

Week 5: October 18

Topic: Zoning and Subdivision Approval

Questions/Discussion Items: An overview of different approaches to zoning, with a focus on the use of zoning by-laws in Toronto; An overview of the Subdivision Approval process under the Planning Act. Both Zoning and Subdivision Approval will be explored within the context of real planning examples in Toronto.

Readings

Katherine. "A Brief History of Zoning By-laws in Toronto." Toronto Reference Library Blog December 14, 2015

Preliminary Report - Rezoning and Official Plan Amendment for 507 College Street. City of Toronto August 22, 2001

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2001/agendas/committees/to/to010912/it028.pdf>

Final Report - Rezoning and Official Plan Amendment for 507 College Street. City of Toronto May 15, 2002 <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2002/agendas/committees/to/to020604/it011a.pdf>

City of Toronto By-law 820-2002

City of Toronto By-law 821-2002

Final Report – Regent Park Application for Subdivision Approval. City of Toronto March 16, 2005 <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/committees/te/te050330/it004.pdf>

City of Toronto By-law 141-2005

Review the City of Toronto's zoning by-law website <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/zoning-by-law-preliminary-zoning-reviews/zoning-by-law-569-2013-2/>

Additional Reading

Hayden, D. "What would a non-sexist city be like? Speculations on housing, urban design, and human work." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 5(S3), 1980, S170-S187.

Week 6: October 25

Topic: Planning Analysis, Application and Review Process (Planning Consultant's perspective)

Questions/Discussion Items: Undertaking planning analysis and preparing a Planning opinion; different roles of the land use planner; ethics and professional conduct

Readings

301 Front Street West Official Plan Amendment and Rezoning - Preliminary Report. City of Toronto December 9, 2009 <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-25894.pdf>

301 Front Street West Official Plan Amendment and Rezoning - Final Report. City of Toronto May 31, 2010 <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-31090.pdf>

Ontario Professional Planners' Institute Professional Code of Practice

Ontario Professional Planners' Institute Standards of Practice

Planning rationale examples (to be provided)

Week 7: November 1

Topic: Planning application and review process (City Planner's perspective)

Questions/Discussion Items: Development review; site planning; equity in planning

Readings

625 Queen Street East Zoning Amendment Application Final Report. City of Toronto May 4, 2007 <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-3706.pdf>

210 Simcoe Street – Zoning Amendment Application – Final Report. City of Toronto April 20, 2011 <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-38416.pdf>

Request for Directions Report - 310 and 320 Tweedsmuir Avenue – Official Plan Amendment and Rezoning Applications. City of Toronto October 30, 2009
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-25077.pdf>

571 Dundas Street West, 21, 21a, 23, 23a, 91 Augusta

Avenue, 73-75 Augusta Square & 20 Vanauley Street – Official Plan Amendment – Final Report. City of Toronto May 22, 2012

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-48032.pdf>

170 Spadina Avenue - Zoning Amendment Application - Preliminary Report. City of Toronto February 13, 2012 <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-45443.pdf>

170 Spadina Avenue and 3,5 and 7 Cameron Street Zoning Amendment Application Request for Direction Report. City of Toronto August 19, 2015
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-82881.pdf>

Ontario Municipal Board Decision Case No.: PL140705 February 06, 2017

<http://www.omb.gov.on.ca/e-decisions/pl140705-Feb-06-2017.pdf>

Week 8: November 8

Topic: Case Study: West Don Lands

Questions/Discussion Items: Revitalization; waterfront planning

Readings

Central Waterfront Secondary Plan https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/8e22-CityPlanning_2006-OP_CWSP_Final.pdf

West Don Lands Precinct Plan

https://www.waterfrontoronto.ca/nbe/wcm/connect/waterfront/a9648fc4-89ec-47c4-80b1-9512947c4533/west_don_land_precinct_plan___may_2005_1.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Toronto By-law 588-2006

373 Front Street East and 90 Mill Street – Zoning Amendment Application – Preliminary Report.
City of Toronto October 18, 2019
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-139073.pdf>

White, James T. “Pursuing design excellence: Urban design governance on Toronto’s Waterfront.” Progress in Planning. Volume 110, 2016. Pp. 1 - 41

Week 9: November 15

Topic: Guest Speaker – Municipal Law in Ontario

Questions/Discussion Items: Role and impact of the OMB and LPAT; Toronto Local Appeal Body; and related Legislation

Readings

LPAT Act <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17l23a>

LPAT Process <https://elto.gov.on.ca/tribunals/lpat/lpat-process/>

LPAT (Citizen’s guide) <https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/local-planning-appeal-tribunal>

Toronto Local Appeal Body <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/committee-of-adjustment/appeals/>

Optional readings:

“The Politics of Toronto’s Development Industry,” in Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development, pp. 104-126. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Kumar, Sandeep. 2005. Urban Design Decision-Making. Canadian Journal of Urban Research; Winter 2005, 14(2): 209-236.

Week 10: November 22

Topic: Due diligence student presentations

Week 11: November 29

Topic: Contemporary Housing Issues in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (“GGH”)

Questions/Discussion Items: Emerging housing challenges in GGH municipalities; options for housing type and tenure; balancing policy objectives and market considerations; the roles of governments, developers, and other actors in the provision of affordable housing; opportunities and challenges associated with planning tools and practices for delivering affordable housing in Ontario.

Readings

City of Toronto’s Inclusionary Zoning Council reporting and related materials:

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/inclusionary-zoning-policy/inclusionary-zoning-reports/>

Modular Housing Initiative: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/community-partners/affordable-housing-partners/modular-housing-initiative/>

Housing Now: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/community-partners/affordable-housing-partners/housing-now/>

A New Regulatory Framework for Multi-tenant Houses:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-168253.pdf> Decision History: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.PH25.10>

August, Martine and Alan Walks. "Gentrification, suburban decline, and the financialization of multi-family rental housing: the case of Toronto." *Geoforum*, Vol 89, 2018, pp. 124-136.

City of Toronto *HousingTO 2020 – 2030 Action Plan*. December 2019.

Clayton, Frank and Daniel Bailey. *Changing Direction: A Fresh Approach for Assessing Affordable Housing Options in the GTA*. Ryerson University Centre for Urban Research and Land Development, May 20, 2021.

Hyde, Zachary. "Giving back to get ahead: Altruism as a developer strategy of accumulation through affordable housing policy in Toronto and Vancouver." *Geoforum*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2018.07.005>

Ibrahim, Dahab. *Growth and Change in Toronto's Neighbourhoods: The challenges of planning for growth and density in the downtown and inner suburbs*. Social Planning Toronto, February 2017

Pomeroy, Steve. *Challenges and opportunities in financing affordable housing in Canada*. Focus Consulting for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, March 2017

Raynor, Katrina and Carolyn Whitzman. "How intersectoral policy networks shape affordable housing outcomes." *International Journal of Housing Policy*, Vol 21(1), 2021, pp. 1-22 available <https://doi.org/10.1080/19491247.2019.1697150>

Region of Peel *Home for All The Region Of Peel's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2018 – 2028*. 2018.

Zhang, Beibei. "Social policies, financial markets and the multi-scalar governance of affordable housing in Toronto." *Urban Studies*, Vol 57(13), 2020, pp. 2628-2645.

Week 12: December 6

Topic: Case Study: St. Clair West Avenue – Avenue Study

Questions/Discussion Items:

Readings

Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/expanding-housing-options/>

Toronto's Review of Laneway Suites

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-135115.pdf>

City Initiated Avenue Study for St. Clair Avenue West between Bathurst Street and Keele Street – Final Report. City of Toronto May 11, 2009

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-21310.pdf>

City-Initiated Avenue Study for St. Clair Avenue West between Bathurst Street and Keele Street – Supplementary Report. City of Toronto June 2, 2009

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-21828.pdf>

Supplementary Report No. 2. City of Toronto September 29, 2009

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-23795.pdf>

Transit Access and Social Equity in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area - Background Paper to the 2041 Regional Transportation Plan. Metrolinx March 2018

<http://www.metrolinx.com/en/regionalplanning/rtp/background/Transit%20Access%20and%20Equity%202018.pdf>

Week 13: December 13 (Class will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.)

Topic: Group Project Presentations

Policies

The department's full [Graduate Course Policies](#) apply to all courses offered.

Accessibility Services

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations because you are disabled, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Where there is an accommodation recommended by [Accessibility Services](#), the department and/or instructors will be provided with an accommodation letter.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct by graduate students is taken very seriously. The University's policy on academic misconduct is found in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) (the Code). Students in graduate studies are expected to commit to the highest standards of integrity and to understand the importance of protecting and acknowledging intellectual property. For example, it is assumed that they bring to their graduate studies a clear understanding of how to cite references appropriately, thereby avoiding plagiarism.

Regarding plagiarism, the Code includes the following statements:

B.i.1. It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

(d) to represent as one's own idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e., to commit plagiarism.

Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing," the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

Other academic offences include the possession and/or use of unauthorized aids in examinations, submitting the same paper for different courses without the knowledge of the instructors, forgery (whether of academic records or other documents), concocting facts or references to sources, personating someone, and other forms of cheating and academic

dishonesty. Please refer to sections B.i.1. and B.i.3. in the Code for detailed descriptions of offences applicable to students.

The [SGS Academic Integrity Resources webpage](#) outlines the policy on academic misconduct and the process for handling an allegation of academic misconduct.

Religious Accommodations

Students must alert instructors in a timely fashion to any upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, exams or other compulsory activities at these times. In the case of an unavoidable conflict with a compulsory activity, every reasonable effort is made to give students the opportunity to make up missed work.

Copyright in Instructional Settings

If a student wishes to record (tape, video, photograph, etc.) any lecture presentations or other similar materials provided by the instructor; the instructor's written consent must be obtained beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is infringement of copyright and prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Extension Requests

The authority to grant an extension to submit coursework beyond the sessional grade deadline is with the department and not the instructor of the course. To request a formal extension beyond a grade deadline, students must submit a Coursework Extension Form, completed by both the student and course instructor, to the relevant graduate department prior to the final grade deadline.

In order to ensure fairness in granting extensions, the department must be reasonably certain that:

- The reasons for delay are serious and substantiated.
- The student is not granted unfair advantage over other students in the course.
- The student has a reasonable chance of completing the outstanding work within the time allotted.
- The normal and satisfactory completion of any new coursework is not in jeopardy.

Extension requests for medical reasons (e.g. short-term illness) must be accompanied by a medical note. Extension requests for students with accommodations due to disability must be supported by documentation from Accessibility Services. Extension requests for other reasons must be detailed in the form or a note to the department.

Mental Health Statement

As a student at U of T, you may experience circumstances and challenges that can affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. There is no wrong time to reach out, which is why there are resources available for every situation and every level of stress.

Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources, including:

- [Geography & Planning Mental Health Support Website](#)
- [Graduate Wellness Services](#)
- [Student Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Emergency support if you're feeling distressed](#)

An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources.

Other Student Services and Support Resources

- [Links to Additional Student Services and Support Resources](#) (general services and support for students, international student support, Health & Wellness, financial aid and professional development)