

The University of Winnipeg
Department of Geography

GEOG 3431(3)-001
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & CITIES

Winter Term: January 8 – April 5, 2024
10:30 – 11:20am

M/W/F

Online

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Office Hours: By appointment

**Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The social, physical, and built environments of cities have profound effects on the health and well-being of urban populations. Urban design influences patterns of everyday mobility, opportunities for social interaction, access to green spaces, and availability of affordable food. This course explores the interlinkages of geography, public health, and urban planning. It considers the impact of multiple urban domains on public health and evaluates the necessity for comprehensive planning approaches to create healthy communities and cities. Emphasis will be on health inequity within cities and urban design ideas and community-based planning that support mental and physical health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The principal course goals that are reflected in course material and assignments include:

- 1) To examine the **impact** of various forms of community design on health that encompasses issues such as:
 - a. Social Capital
 - b. Personal Mobility and Transportation
 - c. Housing Security
 - d. Food Security
 - e. Greening, Air and Water Quality
- 2) To evaluate how **improvement** to the social, physical, and built environments of cities can improve community wellbeing, and
- 3) To identify **strategies** as well as **tools** for engagement and mobilization that will ensure neighbourhood change.

COURSE READINGS

The purchase of a textbook is not necessary for this course. There are many relevant chapters in e-books found at the UW Library that we will consider along with academic journal articles and grey literature. A reading list and instructions for relevant course materials will be identified on Nexus. Overall, to keep up to date on assigned readings for class, students should anticipate reading three or four of these sources per month.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is structured to foster engagement, participation in activities, and discussion in class. The above section on Course Objectives outlines the proposed themes and topics for the class; please note that themes and readings could change to accommodate emerging issues that we may want to discuss in class. Also be aware that due to unforeseen time restrictions, some of the included themes may not be covered and any changes will be announced in class.

NEXUS

Documents related to this course (e.g., course outline, assignment guidelines, lecture slides, and readings) will be made available to students through the NEXUS system. You must be registered in the course to have access to these materials. To login into Nexus, go to: <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/> If you encounter difficulties contact the help desk at 204-786-9149 or help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca.

OFFICE HOURS

I would like to help with any questions or problems you might have with the course and will be available after each class for as long as I am needed. My preference for in-depth, content-related questions is for a meeting on Zoom (by appointment).

CLASS CANCELLATION

If it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, every effort will be made to inform students via uwinnipeg email and Nexus announcements. In the event of a cancellation, the lecture will be recorded and uploaded after to Nexus.

STUDENT EVALUATION

The requirements for evaluation in this course are structured for students to immerse in the readings and lecture material while simultaneously developing a stronger understanding of the goals of the assignments. The course evaluation consists of **four** main components that are outlined below and will be discussed further in class.

Evaluation Criteria	% of Final Mark	Due Date
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Class Participation (10%)

Class participation is essential because the course is structured to encourage collaborative discussion and knowledge sharing to enhance your understanding of the linkages between health and the urban environment. Expectations of participation include **regular attendance with your camera on** and demonstration of your interest by being **prepared to discuss assigned readings and assignments** in class.

Class Participation	10%	All term
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Research Paper (35%)

The goals of this assignment are to 1) **identify** an urban issue relevant to exploring how the urban environment impacts wellbeing, 2) **analyze** how this issue contributes to unhealthy communities, 3) **evaluate** current policies, strategies, and/or projects implemented to address the issue, and 4) **propose** potential solutions demonstrating their impact on community health and wellness. To facilitate the development of a well-structured and analytical paper, the **first draft (4-5 pages)** of the paper should address the first two goals and conclude with a proposed plan for the **finalization of the paper (8-10 pages)** for the end of term.

Draft	15%	February 16
Final Draft	20%	April 5

Group Project: Analyzing the Health of a Community (20%)

Each group will choose a Winnipeg neighbourhood to evaluate two goals of the course: the examination of the **impact of community design on health**, and the identification of current and proposed **policies, strategies and tools** for community mobilization to ensure neighbourhood change. The findings will be highlighted in a **10–15-minute group presentation**.

Group Presentation	20%	March 6 & 8
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Take-home Final Examination (35%)

You are encouraged throughout the course to reflect upon your evolving understanding of how the urban environment affects health and wellness. The take-home final examination will consist of queries to draw upon your analytical understanding of the issues as well as the strategies and tools to create healthy cities and communities.

Final Exam	35%	Due April 22
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GRADING

Senate approved grades for courses include A+, A, A-, B+, B, C+, C, D, and F. The University does not have a standardized numerical grade conversion scale for each letter grade. The following numeric grading system provides **guidelines only** for the separation of letter grades in this course. These boundaries may be adjusted at the request of the Geography Department Review Committee or University Senate. Final letter grades are based on accumulated numeric grades during the course. For this course, grade equivalents are as follows:

A+	90-100 %	C+	65-69.9 %
A	84-89.9 %	C	56-64.9%
A-	80-83.9%	D	50-55.9 %
B+	75-79.9 %	F	less than 50 %
B	70-74.9 %		

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an “F” on your transcript. The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is **March 15, 2024**. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not result in a fee refund. Please refer to the 2023-2024 University of Winnipeg Course Undergraduate Academic Calendar <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/index.html> for Voluntary Withdrawal procedures.

IMPORTANT DATES: WINTER 2024

Date	Significance
January 5	University Opens
January 8	First Class Lecture
February 16	Research Paper Draft due
February 18-24	Reading Week
February 19	Louis Riel (University closed)
March 6 & 8	Group Presentations
March 15	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
March 29	Good Friday (University closed)
April 5	Final Research Paper Draft due
April 5	Last day of lectures
April 8	Make-up class for March 29
April 11-24	Final Exam Period*
April 22	Take-home Final Exam due

* Students are responsible to check all exam information prior to the exam on the course outline. The exam schedule can be found at the following link: <http://https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/index.html>

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Respectful Learning Environment: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with several UW policies could be considered non-academic misconduct. See the Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>) and Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>). More detailed information is outlined in the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>) and (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>).

Regulations, Policy, and Academic Integrity: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals).

Important information is outlined in the Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>.

Emphasis is placed on maintaining academic integrity and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even unintentional plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>), is a form of academic misconduct.

Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves aiding and abetting plagiarism.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.

Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools: It is expected in this course that when doing the take-home term test, final examination, and term assignment, AI Text-generating tools will not be used. Please note, as the use of AI tools is prohibited in this class, students may face allegations of Academic Misconduct if this is disregarded.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor’s intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy, see <https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/basics/copyright-policy.html>

Research Ethics: Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>

Privacy: Students should be reminded of their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>).

Religious Holidays: Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Accessibility Services: Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student’s disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Indigenous Student Services: Indigenous students seeking additional supports, academic or other, are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC). The ASSC offers a variety of support services, and was created to maintain a safe, educational and culturally sensitive environment for all Aboriginal students (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) as they pursue their academic studies at The University of Winnipeg. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/assc/>.