

The University of Winnipeg
Department of Geography

GEOG 2414 (3)-001
THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Fall Term: September 5 – December 20, 2023

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

9:30-10:20am

3M62

Instructor: Dr. Gina Sylvestre
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Office: 5L11 (Lockhart), Department of Geography
Office Hours: By appointment

*Please note when corresponding with the instructor, use your University of Winnipeg email account system: name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca

*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

Cities are challenged by the rapid acceleration of pollution, consumption of non-renewable resources and resulting waste, as well as biodiversity loss. In the coming decades nearly three quarters of the world population will be living in urban places underscoring the urgency for more sustainable and environmentally sensitive cities. This course examines the development of cities since the Industrial Revolution and the impact of urban structure and functions on the environment. Core urban design principles and a range of urban planning approaches are considered to shift urban areas towards sustainability.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce and improve students' understanding of the crucial role of cities in the future of global sustainability.
2. To identify and be able to describe Winnipeg's opportunities and challenges for a sustainable future.
3. To be aware of the historical processes of urbanization and evaluate why current urban sprawl is unsustainable.
4. To promote critical thinking and reflection about sustainable urban form and design concepts.
5. To evaluate priority areas (including alternative transportation, access to healthy food, water and green spaces, renewable energy, and green buildings), identify real-world projects and analyze their potential to generate sustainable urban places.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

This textbook is required for the course and is available from many sources online:

Title: Toward Sustainable Communities
Authors: Mark Roseland
Edition: 2012
Publisher: New Society Publishers

OFFICE HOURS

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

NEXUS

Documents related to this course (e.g., course syllabus, project guidelines, lecture slides, supplemental 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.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is structured to foster engagement and discussion in class. Regular attendance at lectures is required and reading preparation before class will enhance students' understanding of issues related to creating sustainable urban places. The following outlines the theme areas of the course that will be the basis for the structure of the classes throughout the term:

- 1) Structure and Function of Cities Since the Industrial Revolution
- 2) Sustainable Community Building Blocks
- 3) Planning Approaches to Mobility

There will be 5-6 articles, chapters, and media sources assigned for each theme. Further information will be provided in class and on Nexus. Please note 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 material included on the course schedule may not be covered. Any changes will be announced in class.

STUDENT EVALUATION

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Term Test | 20% | October 6 |
| Term Paper Proposal | 10% | October 20 |
| Group Project & Presentation | 10% | November 20 & 22 |
| Term Paper | 25% | December 4 |
| Final Examination | 35% | TBA |

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.

Term Test & Final Examination

The 50-minute test will be comprised of short essay format questions based on the course material covered until the test. The 3-hour final exam consists of long essay format questions, is cumulative, and will cover all lecture materials and readings assigned through the duration of the term. Further information will be provided in class. For both the term test and the final examination, only a student's writing instruments are allowed on the desk.

Term Paper & Proposal

The Group Project and Presentation is outlined below highlighting that each student will choose one of the *Sustainable Community Building Blocks* introduced at the beginning of the course (Roseland, 2012). For the Term Paper, each student will consider the chosen building block and identify a project, case study, plan or policy within an urban centre that illustrates how the challenge can be addressed to achieve sustainable, resilient, and equitable urban communities. Examples include water and waste efficiency, alternative transportation, access to healthy food, water and green spaces, renewable energy, and green buildings.

Based on the identified project, each student will develop and submit a term paper with a maximum length of 8 pages, double-spaced (25%). As a first step for this assignment, students are to develop a Term Paper Proposal (10%) and put forward the example chosen, evaluate how it contributes to the building block, and outline how the analysis will be developed in the Term Paper. Further information on the proposal and term paper will be provided in class and on Nexus. Please note that this submission should be type-written, stapled, and handed in at the beginning of class on the due date.

Group Project & Presentation

The intention of this assignment is for class members to consider the redesign of a neighbourhood to create a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable community. Students will work collaboratively within groups to envision changes based on the *Sustainable Community Building Blocks* introduced at the beginning of the course (Roseland, 2012). Students will each select one of these building blocks and use it as a basis to propose how the community could be improved. Each group will provide a presentation of 10 minutes with 5 minutes for questions (15 minutes total). Further information on this assignment will be provided in class and on Nexus. The grade for this assignment will be based on the presentation (5%) and the slide notes included by each student for their portion of the presentation (5%).

References & Citations

For assignment submissions, please follow the reference and citation style specified in the APA 7th Edition. More information about the style is available from the University of Winnipeg library. In addition, Purdue University offers comprehensive guidelines and examples that can be found at: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due at the start of class. Extensions without penalty will be granted only for medical or compassionate reasons, as well as religious holiday celebrations. Documentation may be requested. Please note that computer problems are NOT an acceptable excuse for late submissions. No exceptions will be made. Five percent (5%) per day will be deducted for late assignments. Assignments will only be accepted for one week after the due date.

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, as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.

CHANGE IN MODE OF DELIVERY

In the case of a permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams. Students can find answers to frequently ask questions related to remote learning here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>

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 **November 13, 2023**. 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: FALL 2023

| Date | Significance |
|------------------|--|
| September 5 | Lectures Begin |
| September 6 | First Class Lecture |
| September 30 | Truth & Reconciliation Day (University Closed) |
| October 6 | Term Test |
| October 8-14 | Reading Week |
| October 9 | Thanksgiving (University Closed) |
| October 20 | Term Paper Proposal due |
| November 11 | Remembrance Day (University Closed) |
| November 13 | Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty |
| November 20 & 22 | Group Presentations |
| December 4 | Last Class Lecture/Term Paper due |
| December 7-20 | Final Exam Period |
| Final Exam | TBA* |

* 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/institutional-analysis/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/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/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). 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:

<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/>.