

**GEOG. 3413/770**  
**URBAN REVITALIZATION: REBUILDING OUR DECAYING CITIES**

Course Slot: Monday, 2:30pm – 5:15pm; 4CM42  
Instructor: Jino Distasio  
Email [j.distasio@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.distasio@uwinnipeg.ca) Phone: 204.982-1147  
Office: 82B-RCFE  
Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Objective**

This course examines the processes, politics and policies of urban revitalization with a focus on re-imagining the North American city post 1950. By situating development patterns within complex urban intervention efforts over the last 75 years, students will gain a broad understanding of the successes and challenges of various approaches.

**Course Description**

Issues surrounding growth and development have been replaced by concerns about decline and revitalization in many North American and European cities. This course will focus on urban decline and revitalization efforts. Theories of decline and the demographic, economic, and physical changes that occur in declining city neighbourhoods will be discussed. The course will then explore revitalization efforts, drawing extensively on case study material from selected cities as well as field and project work within Winnipeg. Broad approaches to revitalization; revitalizing the housing and commercial sector; attracting people back to the inner city; the role of government, community and the private sector; rejuvenating older, greying suburban neighbourhoods; and planning for long term sustainability will be amongst the topics discussed.

**Textbook**

There is no textbook for this course; assigned readings will be distributed weekly via Nexus. Assigned readings are compulsory for the final examination and assignments and are available through University of Winnipeg databases.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course will enable students to:

1. Understand how cities have responded to cycles of urban decline and growth over the past 75 years;
2. Better understand the theories used to assess revitalization efforts using a specific case study;
3. Understand the dynamics of politics, policies and power in shaping urban development
4. Become aware of the planning approaches and initiatives that have been successful as well as struggled; and
5. Be able to assess and evaluate urban intervention projects using data and visual information.

## Course Organization and Outline

Theme areas for study in the Course will be drawn from the following:

1. Historical responses to dealing with urban growth and decline
2. Characteristics of urban change
3. Theories of urban change and decline
4. Current approaches to urban revitalization
5. Revitalizing residential areas: local, national and international experiences
6. Revitalizing commercial areas: retail, industrial, institutional, brownfield redevelopment, increasing pedestrian comfort and pedestrian malls
7. Transportation as a focal point for revitalization
8. The Actors and Agents of change: the role of government, the private sector, communities, public/private partnerships
9. Planning for long term sustainability: can we plan to prevent decline?
10. Downtown restructuring pre and post pandemic/approaches and outcomes

## Grading

Letter grades are typically determined using the following numeric groupings as guidelines:

%	90-100	84-89	80-83	76-79	70-75	66-69	56-65	50-54	<50
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	C+	C	D	F

NOTE: The numeric boundaries separating letter grades may be adjusted at the request of the Departmental Review Committee, the University or the Senate.

## Term Assignments and Mark Distribution

Photo Imaging Project (Due: Oct 2, 2023)	-20%
Revitalization Case Study (Due: Nov 13, 2023)	-20%
Final Paper (Due: Dec 4, 2023)	-25%
Final Exam (TBA)	-35%

## Exam and Assignment Format

The format for the final exam will be essay questions. Questions will be drawn from lectures, assigned readings and guest speakers.

**Photo Project:** Students will image and caption up to 25 photos relevant to contemporary or historic urban redevelopment efforts. Students should seek to image the city through the lens of change, preservation, loss and hope. Students are free to narrative images with sound, video or text. The project should reflect each student's perception of the dynamic nature of revitalization.

**Case Study City:** students will complete a case study of an assigned city (details will be provided). Students will examine a city and review a revitalization initiative with emphases on Post-Covid recovery and impact. The format for the assignment is to create a Powerpoint Presentation. Notes and Citations should be placed in the notes section of each slide.

**Final Paper:** A final paper, of 2500 words, will reflect on a particular topic of interest. The format for the paper will be distributed and placed on Nexus.

## Important Dates and Withdrawal Information

Lectures start Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Fall Term Reading Week is October 8 – 14, 2023. The final date for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is Monday, November 13, 2023.

Students should refer to the General Calendar for the procedures involved. Students are advised to seek an appointment with the course instructor to discuss their individual performance in the course prior to copythe withdrawal date if they are concerned or are considering withdrawal. Evaluative feedback shall be given to students before the final date for voluntary withdrawal.

Lectures End for Regularly scheduled classes is Monday, December 4, 2023 followed by the exam period is December 7 – 20, 2023.

## Citing Sources

All submitted work will comply with *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association latest version*. A good online guide is also available from the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

## Submissions

Written material must be typed or computer-generated, on one side only, double-spaced on white paper. Margins should be at least 2.5 cm. (1”) on all sides, allowing room for instructor’s comments). Student name and number should be centered on a separate title page at the front of each assignment. All assignment submissions are considered final: once the assignment is handed in, the instructor will not accept revisions or re-submissions. (The only exception to this rule is if a re-submission is required to address an “I” [Incomplete] grade in the course).

Strict adherence to the stated/announced assignment deadlines is required. Only in exceptional (i.e., medical, compassionate and religious holidays) circumstances will an extension be granted. Students must speak to the Instructor and provide a medical note to the instructor. If the work is not submitted within 7 calendar days of the new date a grade of F will automatically be recorded. **Otherwise, unexplained late submissions will be penalized by 2% for each day late.**

## General Course Information

1. When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, effort will be made to inform students via uwinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.
2. 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.
3. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.
4. The first day of class is September 5, 2023 and the final class is on December 4, 2023 [See <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/dates.pdf> for all dates]

5. *Avoiding Academic and Non-academic Misconduct.* Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Detailed information can be found at the following:
- Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
  - 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>
6. *Misuse of Filesharing Sites.* 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) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.
7. *Avoiding Copyright Violation.* Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to file sharing 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 photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.
8. Important information is outlined in the Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://pace.uwinnipegcourses.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Academic%20Misconduct%20Procedures.pdf>.
9. *Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools.* Students must follow principles of academic integrity (e.g., honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility) in their use of material obtained through AI text-generating tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing, Notion AI). If an instructor prohibits the use of AI tools in a course, students may face an allegation of academic misconduct if using them to do assignments. If AI tools are permitted, students must cite them. According to the MLA (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>), you should
1. cite a generative AI tool whenever you paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into your own work any content (whether text, image, data, or other) that was created by it
  2. acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words) in a note, your text, or another suitable location
  3. take care to vet the secondary sources it cites”
  4. If students aren’t sure whether or not they can use AI tools, they should ask their professors.

10. *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 a number of 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>).
11. *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>).
12. *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/>.
13. Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holydays 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 or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2023-24 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.
14. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services/> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
15. *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>