

# URBAN RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE

## GEOGRAPHY 3731 – FALL 2013

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**Instructor:** Dr. Todd A. Randall  
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Office Hours (or by appointment):  
*No specific hours. Please contact me for an appointment or catch me after class.*

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### Calendar Description:

An examination of the physical and social structure of the North American city, with emphasis on problems in modern urban planning. Specific reference is made to the definition and implementation of sustainable community designs, with examples where they exist.

### Course Objectives:

- to provide an overview of the physical and social structure of urban areas;
- to provide a synopsis of research on the urban geography of Canadian cities;
- to review the principles and practice of sustainable community design;
- to explore the broader implications for society if urban sustainability is to be implemented;
- to provide opportunity for the development and practice of written and oral communication skills;

### Course Organization:

The course meets two (2) times per week (Tues. & Thurs., 17:30-19:00 in RB-3044). These meetings will be a mix of lectures, discussions and field observations. These discussions will center upon materials found in the course readings manual and Owen (2009). Course topics are listed on the course schedule (below), allowing you to read ahead and be prepared for class discussions. In addition, a fieldtrip has been designed to appreciate firsthand some of the topics considered in class. The mid-term and final exams will cover material covered in lectures and course readings. The mid-term exams are scheduled for **Thursday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. The Owen text will be a component of the final exam in April.

<b>Course Grading:</b>	Field Trip Assignment (A.FT)	10%
	Mid-term Exams (2@15% each)	30%
	Research Paper / Poster	25%
	Final Exam	35%
		<u>100%</u>

The course **fieldtrip** is estimated at 4 hours in duration and will be completed outside of regular class time. The fieldtrip is a mandatory course element and there will be an assignment associated with it. Logistical details will be sorted out in class.

Overdue assignments and papers will be penalized 10% per academic day or part thereof. The **research paper/poster/project** is described on a subsequent page (see below).

### Course Materials (required) and Library Reserve Materials List:

- Course Manual entitled “Urban Residential Structure – Readings Package”, Fall 2013 (required)
- (book) Owen, D., 2009. *Green Metropolis: Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, and Driving Less Are the Keys to Sustainability*. New York, NY: Riverhead Books. (required)

The Readings Package and the Owen book are available in the bookstore. In addition, reference to the following books and papers (on reserve in the Library) **will be in select lectures**. These may be useful when completing assignments or undertaking your research papers.

- Alexander, C. *et al.* 1977. *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1171 pp.
- Arendt, R. 1994. *Rural By Design: Maintaining Small Town Character*, Chicago: Planners Press, American Planning Association, 441 pp.
- Barton, H. (editor) 2000. *Sustainable communities: the potential for eco-neighbourhoods*. London: Earthscan, 305 pp.
- Barton, H., Grant, M. and Guise, R. 2003. *Shaping neighbourhoods: a guide for health, sustainability and vitality*. London: Spon, 244 pp.
- Bunting, T. and Filion, P. (editors). 2000. *Canadian Cities in Transition: The Twenty-First Century*. Second Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press Canada, 576 pp.
- Bunting, T. and Filion, P. (editors). 2006. *Canadian Cities in Transition: Local Through Global Perspectives*. Third Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press Canada, 532 pp.
- Calthorpe, P. 1993. *The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community and the American Dream*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 175 pp.
- Chambers, N., Simmons, C. and Wackernagel, M. 2000. *Sharing Nature's Interest: Ecological Footprints as an Indicator of Sustainability*, London: Earthscan, 185 pp.
- Chiras, D. and Wann, D. 2003. *Superbia! 31 Ways to Create Sustainable Neighbourhoods*, Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 229 pp.
- City of Thunder Bay 2002<sup>1</sup>. *City of Thunder Bay Official Plan*, Planning Division.
- City of Thunder Bay 2002<sup>2</sup>. *City of Thunder Bay Zoning Bylaws*, Planning Division.
- City of Thunder Bay 2010. *City of Thunder Bay Zoning Bylaws*, Planning Division. [available at [http://www.thunderbay.ca/City\\_Government/Departments/Development\\_Services/Planning\\_Division.htm](http://www.thunderbay.ca/City_Government/Departments/Development_Services/Planning_Division.htm)]
- Duany, A., Speck, J., and Plater-Zyberk, E. 2000. *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*, North Point Press, 304 pp.
- Hens, L. and De Wit, J. 2003. The development of indicators and core indicators for sustainable development: a state of the art review. *International Journal of Sustainable Development* 6 (4): 436-459.

<sup>1</sup> The version of Official Plan (available online) includes updates of the Official up to and including May 2005. See the web site in the next footnote.

<sup>2</sup> The Zoning Bylaws for the City of Thunder Bay have been updated as of 2010 but the current version is yet not available in printed form in the library. Please consult the online version available on the Planning Division web site ([http://www.thunderbay.ca/City\\_Government/Departments/Development\\_Services/Planning\\_Division.htm](http://www.thunderbay.ca/City_Government/Departments/Development_Services/Planning_Division.htm)).

- Hough, M. 1995. *Cities and Natural Process*, New York: Routledge, 326 pp.
- Jacobs, J. 1961. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, New York: Random House, 458 pp.
- Maclaren, V. 1993. *Sustainable Urban Development in Canada: from Concept to Practice*, Toronto: ICURR Press.
- Newman, P. and Kenworthy, J. 1999. *Overcoming Automobile Dependence*, Island Press, 450 pp.
- Northey, M.E. and McKibbin, J. 2002. *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Don Mills, Ont: Oxford University Press, 178 pp.
- Register, R. 1987. *Ecocity Berkeley: Building Cities for a Healthy Future*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books, 140 pp.
- Register, R. 2006. *Ecocities: Rebuilding Cities in Balance with Nature*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 373 pp.
- Wackernagel, M. and Rees, W. 1996. *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*, Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 160 pp.
- Williams, K., Burton, E., and Jenks, M. (editors). 2000. *Achieving Sustainable Urban Form*, London: Spon, 388 pp.

## GEOG 3731 COURSE SCHEDULE – FALL 2013 (*subject to changes*)

Class Dates	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting (Tuesday)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting (Thursday)
Sep 10 & 12	1, 2: Introductions, Urban Geography & Planning (Simmons and McCann 2006; Simmons and Bourne 2007), Urban Sustainability (Rees and Roseland 1991; Rees 2010)	
Sep 17 & 19	3: US and Canadian City Contrasts (England and Mercer 2006)	4: History of North American Urban Development, <b>Intro to Paper/Project</b> (Lorch and Jordan 1995)
Sep 24 & 26	5: Relationship between Transportation, Urban Form & Auto Dependence; (Perl and Kenworthy 2010)	6: Plight of the Conventional Suburb (Kunstler 1996; Bourne 2001); <i>“Lost in the Suburbs”</i>
Oct 1 & 3	7: Social Landscapes of Cities (Murdie and Teixeira 2000; Warman <i>et al.</i> 2006)	8: Sustainable Communities (Rees and Roseland 1991; Greene 2005; Rees 2010) <b>(A.FT) “Sust. Region Initiative”</b>
Oct 8 & 10	9: Suburbs: Characteristics & Planning Challenges (Gilliland 2010); <i>“GVTV Sprawl clips”</i>	<b>MID-TERM EXAM 1</b>
Oct 15 & 17	10: Urban Sustainability Indicators (Maclaren 1996; McLean and Korol 2004)	11: Suburban Downtowns and Edge Cities (Filion and Gad 2006)
Oct 22 & 24	12: Ecological Footprinting (Wackernagel and Rees 1996)	13: Rethinking Sprawl: Intro to New Urbanism (NTD, TOD) (Adler 1995; Calthorpe 1993)
Oct 29 & 31	14: Alternatives to the Conventional Suburb; (Christoforidis 1994); New Urbanism (Kunstler 1996; Munro 2004)	15: The Dreaded Density (Larkham and Jones 1993; Jenks 2000) <b>(Disc. Owen ch.1)</b>
Nov 5 & 7	16: Defining Good Urban Form (Jacobs 1961; Alexander 1977) and Smart Growth (Curran and Tomalty 2003)	<b>MID-TERM EXAM 2</b>
Nov 12 & 14	17: Ending Automobile Dependence (Alvord 2000; Miller <i>et al.</i> 2006; Gilliland 2010) <b>(Disc. Owen ch.3)</b>	18: Planning & Planners in Shaping Urban Landscapes (Fischler and Wolfe 2006; Randall and Lorch 2007)
Nov 19 & 21	19: Specific Planning Issues in Thunder Bay ( <i>Guest Lecturer</i> )	Illustrated Poster Session I ( <i>or TBA</i> )
Nov 26 & 28	20: Solving Current Urban Problems / Achieving Sustainability (Fodor 1999; Carter-Whitney 2008); <b>(Disc. Owen ch.6)</b>	Review, Exam Hints (see note 3)
Dec 3	no class (see note 1)	

**NOTES:** (1) First day of term: Mon. Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013; Last day of classes is Mon. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013; Last day to drop a fall-term course: Mon. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013; (2) Thanksgiving holiday is Monday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013; (3) **Final exams** run from Dec 5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, inclusive – there is no flexibility in changing exams to accommodate holiday travel; (4) Final date to register for a course (Fri, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>); (5) There will be in-class discussions of the book by David Owen (2009), tentatively indicated by a **(Disc. Owen ch.)**; **please read the appropriate chapter in advance of class.** (6) **(A.FT)** = approximate date field trip assignment to be handed out;

## Research Paper / Illustrated Poster / Neighbourhood Discovery Project

As part of your course grade, you are required to complete a research paper, poster or project. There are three formats for the output of your research, your choice of 1) a traditional paper of 3000 to 3500 words in length; 2) an illustrated poster (described below); or 3) a neighbourhood discovery project (described below).

The following are the **key dates** and elements surrounding your submission:

Proposal Due:	Thursday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013 (in class)
Paper / Project Due Date:	Thursday, November 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 (in class)
Illustrated Poster / Project Presentations:	November 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2013

The total marks for the paper, poster or project is 25 (i.e., 25% of your course mark), of which 3 are to be given for a completed proposal, and 22 for the paper, poster or project itself.

### *Research Paper*

Prepare and submit a paper of 3000 to 3500 words (word count does not include space devoted to references, figures and tables and captions). The topic is of your choosing, but you are required to submit a short proposal to the instructor for approval. All papers are to be fully referenced using the author-date style of referencing (e.g., Simpson 2001). **Failure to cite borrowed materials is plagiarism (see note below).** References should follow the format described and illustrated in the Geography Undergraduate Thesis Manual found on the Department web site (see link <http://geography.lakeheadu.ca/thesis.html>; version current to Sept 2007). Helpful writing and formatting suggestions can be obtained from materials on reserve in the library (e.g., see Northey and McKibbin 2002). Be sure to include a 'word count' on your cover page. *This is a literature-based paper and it is expected that you will cite at least 8 to 10 scholarly articles and books in your research paper or poster (appropriate for level 3). Internet sites are usually not considered scholarly material.*

### *Illustrated Poster*

An illustrated poster is a newer format for conveying research findings at professional meetings (e.g., CAG, AAG). It is a combination of a traditional orally-delivered paper (15 to 25 minutes speaking) and a standard poster presentation (0 minutes speaking). With a standard poster, one prepares research material and pins it up on a board to be viewed by passersby. With an illustrated poster, a more formal 'session' is held and each researcher has the opportunity to give a short presentation (7 to 10 minutes) in front of his/her poster, followed by time for the audience to peruse the posters up close and to talk directly with the presenters. **As with the research paper, evidence of research must be provided** (i.e., cite references to literature in your poster text). It is potentially a way of getting great exposure of your ideas while also having the opportunity to clearly articulate your ideas. *Due to time constraints in the course, only a select number of illustrated posters are to be scheduled (see Course Schedule).*

### *Neighbourhood Discovery Project (NDP)*

The NDP provides students with the opportunity to do a **self-directed project** on a Thunder Bay residential neighbourhood. Although self-directed, it will be important that you consult routinely with Dr Randall on specific aspects of the project including approval to work on an NDP. The overall goal of the project is to investigate a particular neighbourhood in some detail

in terms of its physical and social components. These components will include (but are not necessarily limited to) the neighbourhood's housing and land use composition, ethnic makeup, serviceability by transit, and age and income structure. The NDP involves both field work and computer work (expertise with statistical analysis and GIS essential). Data are to be collected from both first hand observations and secondary sources like the 2006 or 2011 Census. The results of your NDP can be either presented to the class or written up as a technical report. In both, you will be required to generate a number of maps and tables. Maps must be generated using GIS and Dr Randall will be able to provide you information on how to download the necessary digital data for base maps.

*Proposal (poster & paper)*

Topics for papers and posters are of your choosing, but should be situated within the context of the course's main themes. On the following page is a list of topics that might help steer you, but you are not bound to choose from this list (read: I encourage you to think outside the list). Submit a **one-page** proposal that details the nature of the research you intend to do (*submissions over 1 page will be returned unmarked*). It should include the following elements:

- tentative paper title
- key arguments or themes that you intend to make in the paper / poster
- a paragraph or two summarizing the ideas you intend to explore
- list at least 3 journal articles that will be used (no web references)
- **and** indicate preference for either poster presentation or research paper

*Proposal (neighbourhood discovery project)*

Submit a **one-page** proposal that details the methodology and proposed timeline for your NDP (*submissions over 1 page will be returned unmarked*). It should include the following elements:

- potential neighbourhood you wish to study (chosen in consultation with Dr Randall)
- statement that you have necessary GIS and statistical skills
- the variables that you will be measuring
- what data sources you will be using
- a timeline of activities (field work, computer work)
- clear statement that you do not plan to speak with neighbourhood residents (**if you do plan to do this, you will need ethics approval first**)
- **and** indicate preference for either oral presentation or technical report

## Paper and Poster Topics (Suggestions Only)

Listed below are some potential topics within 3 broad areas of the course. There are countless others that you might think of that would be appropriate. No duplicate topics are permitted unless approved by the Instructor ahead of time.

### *Urban Geography*

- history of residential development of an area
- social geography of cities
- gentrification of the central city
- suburban downtowns in Toronto and Vancouver
- immigrant gateway cities
- demographic changes in Canadian cities (age, ethnicity, income)

### *Urban Planning*

- role of planning in shaping residential development
- review of zoning by-laws
- downtown revitalization schemes in Thunder Bay or elsewhere
- criticisms of postwar suburban development / sprawl
- defining good urban form
- public participation in planning
- measuring the impact of sprawl / sprawl diversity indices
- new and existing transit initiatives (e.g., Toronto's 'Transit City' plans)
- transit and infrastructure legacies of Vancouver's Expo 86 and the 2010 Olympics
- re-development of brownfields (old industrial lands, school closure sites, etc)
- initiatives towards neighbourhood intensification
- re-birth of small rural/agricultural towns in Ontario as commuter towns

### *Sustainable Community Design*

- benefits and consequences of New Urbanism
- compact city debate
- Smart Growth Networks (US, BC, Ontario)
- eco-villages
- measuring and implementing SCD
- science behind ecological footprint analysis tools
- application of Calthorpe's TOD model to an existing community

## Plagiarism:

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty: Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to debarment from the University. As noted in the University Calendar (**University Regulation IX Academic Misconduct**):

"Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

*Further definitions, procedures, and penalties for dealing with plagiarism and academic dishonesty are set out in the University Calendar, available in paper and on-line. Note that many issues of plagiarism can be prevented through careful use of a manual on style and grammar.*

## University Regulation XII Timely Feedback

Lakehead University recognizes that it is important to provide timely and constructive feedback on all academic work. For all courses, at least 25% (for one term courses) and 30% (for two term courses) of the final grade shall be provided to students prior to the last day to withdraw without academic penalty for the course. Exceptions to the graded feedback include theses, dissertations, pass/fail courses, directed reading courses, seminar courses, independent research study courses, and performance courses. All other exceptions must be approved by the Dean. Exceptions granted should be included on the course outline. The spirit of this regulation should be applied to courses of fewer than 12 weeks.