

Urban and Regional Planning | GEOG 4323A | Fall 2024

Tuesdays 2:35pm – 5:25pm | Richcraft Hall 1201

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Draft Minimal Course Outline (subject to changes)



Planning is a powerful force that shapes cities, the built environment, and everyday life. Planning practices are designed to serve a diverse and varied public, yet the reality often tells a different story. Far from being neutral or universally beneficial, planning has historically contributed to the creation of uneven geographies, exacerbating social divides and perpetuating inequality through its spatial configurations.

In this course we will delve into these multifaceted aspects of planning and more through a range of planning theories and practices. We will contextualize and apply some of this knowledge through activities focused on urban and regional planning efforts in Ottawa. We will discuss how planning decisions intersect with policy and political actions, legal systems, economic interests, and community needs. Most importantly, we will question how planning shapes people's lives and livelihoods.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop a critical understanding of the history, theory, and practice of urban planning, with focus on contemporary issues affecting cities today
- Connect theoretical concepts to specific geographic contexts - with a particular focus on Ottawa
- Develop the ability to critically assess the impact of planning decisions on urban environments, communities and social equity and gain a better understanding of your own capacities for individual and collective action.
- Apply key skills and methods used in the field of planning