

COURSE OUTLINE
GEOGRAPHY 3463G: HOUSING
Winter 2017

Instructor: Prof. M. Buzzelli
Office: SSC 2429
Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistant: N/A
Office: N/A
Office Hours: N/A

Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:20 am
Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:20 am

Room: UCC 066, WALS
Room: SSC 2322E “Pleva Room”

Honours seminar on housing and neighbourhoods in the North American city

The purpose of this course is to provide an advanced honours seminar on housing and neighbourhoods from a geographical perspective. Geographers and other social scientists as well as planning, design and associated engineering fields have a long-standing interest in housing and neighbourhoods. As the single most important durable good consumed by most households, we are interested in how housing is supplied, obtained and used. Overlaid on these interests is the geography of the market: because it is fixed in place, housing is characterised by its location perhaps more than any other feature. Location also distinguishes housing from most other durable goods. The urban housing market is necessarily a geographical market of neighbourhoods. The focus of this course is on how that residential geography comes to be, how it influences and reinforces the everyday lives and socioeconomic position of its residents and how the state influences these processes via policies and programmes.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop skills of critical thinking, oral and written communication
- Develop the ability to apply geographical concepts, skills and understanding to real-world problems and in a variety of careers and occupations
- Develop the ability to relate current trends to theories and methods in the study of housing and neighbourhoods
- Build capacity to carry out a study of a key housing/urban issue using relevant sources

Prerequisite: Third or fourth year status.

Format of the course: A combination of lectures, seminars and project sessions each week.

Required and Recommended Reading: Distributed via OWL

Evaluation (late assignments deducted 10% per day):

Group project proposal, 10%, due/presented in the class prior to reading week

Term paper/project, 30%, due/presented last class of term

Mid-term test, 20%

Seminar discussions, 20%, scheduled throughout term

Individual course summative reflection, 20%, due one week after the end of term

Students are required to attend all scheduled meetings. No scheduled times are optional.

Course policies and rules

Academic dishonesty: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Other policies

1. University Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
2. Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
3. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
4. Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off during class. If you bring one to class, be sure to turn it off or you will be asked to leave. No text messaging during class. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.
5. Email within OWL, and/or office hours, are the best way to contact your instructor/TAs. The instructor does not use email outside of OWL.

Students with special accommodation will write make-up tests and examinations administered by the department on Fridays during respective periods of fall and winter terms. To prevent prior disclosure, the format and contents of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Course schedule (additional readings may be assigned)

Week	Lecture topic	Reading
1	Course introduction	
	Term assignment issued; seminars scheduled	
2	Housing in the North American city (slide show)	Bunting and Fillion, 2010; Harris, 2006
	Assignment time and research help session	
3	Theoretical perspectives on housing and policy	Harris, 1999; Kemeny, 2006
4	Housing and public policy: financial markets come home	Maclennan, 2008; Carter and Polevychok, 2004
	Seminar Session	
5	Guest lecture - careers in housing	
	Library research help session	
6	The nature/characteristics of housing	CMHC, 2014 (a reference resource)
	Seminar session	
7	Housing supply and development	Buzzelli, 2004; Suttor, 2009
	Seminar session	
9	Residential demand, search and consumption	Badcock, 2002; Teixeira, 2008
	Seminar session	
10	Homelessness, affordability and need	Hulchanski, 2001; Berman et al., 2011
	Seminar session	
11	Residential segregation	Massey and Denton, 1993; Walks and Bourne, 2006
	Seminar session	
12	Green building and development	Cidell, 2009; Adams, 2004
	Seminar session (assignment time/remedial help)	
13	Housing and health	Howden-Chapman, 2004
	Seminar session	
14	Course wrap-up	

Additional Resources

The following is a selection of resources in the field of housing studies, all of which can be accessed via the Western library system or directly online:

- Canadian Housing Observer, CMHC
 - A regular circular overviewing housing trends and issues in Canada
- Canadian Housing Renewal Association, <http://www.chra-achru.ca/english/view.asp?x=1>
 - National affordability advocacy organisation
- Canadian Journal of Urban Research
- Encyclopedia of Housing, W. van Vliet
- One of the most comprehensive reference works on housing
- Geography of Housing, LS Bourne
 - Though dated, still a useful text on housing studies
- Habitat International
 - A journal with breadth of coverage while also focusing on housing access for marginalised communities. Global in coverage.
- House, Home and Community, J Miron
 - An edited Canadian text covering many of the core themes of housing studies.
- Housing in Postwar Canada, J Miron
 - A text representing the state of housing demand and, to a lesser extent, supply, in Canada to about 1990.
- Housing Policy Debate
 - An American journal on housing policy. Primarily applied in orientation. Published by Fannie Mae (similar to CMHC in Canada)
- Housing Studies
 - The leading international housing journal.
- International Journal of Urban and Regional Research
 - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.
- Journal of Urban Affairs
 - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.
- Real Estate Economics
 - As the title suggests, primarily an economic focus on urban land use and housing economics.
- Urban Affairs Review
 - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.
- Urban Geography
 - An urban journal with a geographical focus and some coverage of housing studies.
- Urban Studies
 - An international urban studies journal with good coverage of housing studies.

About your professor

Michael Buzzelli, B.A. (Hons.), M.A., Ph.D., M.Ed., Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario.

After completing graduate work at McMaster University, I held academic appointments at UBC and then Queen's. I have been at Western since 2007. Along the way I have taught many undergraduate courses and supervised students at all graduate/postdoctoral levels. I have led several national and international research projects on a range of issues as well as applied graduate policy training and consulting work. My current work focuses on higher education system policy and planning, particularly with respect to teaching and learning.

In addition to these rewarding experiences, I have also held visiting appointments at the Universities of Melbourne (Summer 2007), Glasgow (Summer 2008), UBC (Summer 2011) and Bologna (2016). Among the most important things I do professionally is serve on the Board of Directors of London and Middlesex Housing Corporation, the largest social housing provider in the region.