

# WESTERN UNIVERSITY

## **GEOGRAPHY 2162A: Planning Sustainable Cities Fall 2017**

**Lecturer:** Sergio Pompili M.A., Dipl. A.A. Urban Design,  
Previously a Member of CIP & OPPI

**Office:** Room 2223 SSC  
**Office Hours:** 6:15 – 6:45 pm  
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**Lectures:** Tuesdays 7:00 – 10:00 pm  
**Location:** Room SSC 3024

### **Important dates:**

<b>Thu Sept 7:</b>	First day of classes
<b>Mon Oct 9:</b>	Thanksgiving
<b>Oct 9-13:</b>	Fall Reading Week
<b>Wed Dec 8:</b>	Last day of classes
<b>Dec 10-21:</b>	Exam period

### **Course Title Change:**

Formerly “Introduction to Urban and Regional Planning”, the revised course title emphasizes the need for contained/intensified/environmentally responsible urban areas.

The above provides the scope to instruct how cities have changed, are constantly evolving and the importance of urban sustainability, while protecting our rural and natural features/areas.

The Lecturer, Sergio Pompili, has been and remains active within the ever-evolving morphological (structural) change of urban areas for over 35 years, formerly specializing as a land use planning consultant, land investment and development strategist and now a researcher of urban areas in Toronto and the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH).

“Planning Sustainable Cities” also reflects real world urban issues, is current and more likely to lead to career opportunities.

## **General Course Description:**

The objective of this course is to expose students to the role that land use planning plays within our urban, regional, and rural settings. The first part of the course will define planning and planning theory. Next, there will be discussion on why we need to plan our physical environment, what the public interest is in planning, and determination of the role planners have in the land use approval process. There will be an initial review of the major stakeholders in the municipal public decision-making process. There will also be an outline of the steps in both initiating and completing land use change, such as undertaking the processes of planning through policy formulation, implementation and need to monitor and evaluate the implemented plans and policies.

The next part of the course will touch on urban, regional and rural land use planning within the Province of Ontario, which takes on a historical overview of the legislative/policy structure to regulate our constantly evolving diversified/intermixed urban fabric and the need to control/contain suburban sprawl.

The course will also establish the setting for land use planning in Ontario by reviewing the policy, regulatory and political hierarchies that are in place. This top-down approach will depict the layered forms of government and identify the key land use regulatory and/or development tools, such as the official plan, zoning by-law, plan of subdivision, consent authority (land severance), committee of adjustment (minor variance) and site plan approval. The course will also touch on the roles of the key provincial ministries and public bodies that are part of the land use regulatory process.

The latter part of the course will discuss the role of urban, regional, and rural planning in our current setting, specifically, the urgent requirement for planning sustainable cities in our current and future settings. Emphasis will be placed on the need for a new form of sustainable urbanism. Various alternative development options will be discussed, such as new urbanism, smart growth, gentrification, compact urban form, infill and intensification, mixed-use development, place making, creating healthy and environmentally friendly communities through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and LEED – Neighbourhood Development (LEED-ND) projects, redevelopment of brownfield sites, re-urbanization of our inner-city cores, regional sprawl by-way-of strategic satellite urban centres in close proximity to Ontario's traditional large-scale cities, and the preservation of farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.

The final part of the course will focus on the complex interrelationships that exist between the physical, environmental, economic, social, and built considerations in planning. There will be an examination of the role that Conservation Authorities play in protecting our natural and man-made landscapes. The course will also touch on the key role that municipal servicing plays in determining if land tracts are economically feasible for land use change(s).

In totality, the course attempts to document the advancement of the impact of urban planning, principally in the Ontario setting and, to a lesser extent, North American and Global levels, in terms of the advancement of creating urban areas/cities from the early 1950s to our current setting. During this timeframe, urbanization and growth of our cities have surpassed the scale/size of cumulative human habitat our planet has developed prior to this interval in time,

which has unfortunately failed to truly implement sustainable development. The objective still remains today on whether we will be able to finally create sustainable cities over the next projected unprecedented global human urbanization period (that will once again double our planet's present built form). This is now expected to occur within the next 35 years, even though planners and our overall society have now at its disposal a revolutionary set of planning tools and expertise. Coupled with this situation are now urgent needs to immediately address climate change, the limitations of Global resources, and expansive population growth, which has a collective desire for First World lifestyles.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to discuss, debate, and formulate their own opinions of the role the planning field plays within the urban, regional, and rural settings. The objective of the course is to inform students of the local government structure and establish the importance of the land use planning field within the municipal public approval process, regardless of their ultimate career choices. In order to achieve these objectives, regular attendance and active contribution in Lectures is required. Students must also complete a group presentation, midterm test, research report, and final exam.

In summary, the overall objective of the course is to equip students with the knowledge to assess/understand urban issues and, if they choose, possibly play a role in implementing the need for our society to plan sustainable cities.

## **Course Outline:**

### **Understanding the Meaning of the Word “Planning”:**

September 12, 2017: Defining Planning and Planning Theory

*OWL Readings: Introduction to Structure and Debates of Planning Theory*

September 19, 2017 to

September 26, 2017:

Determination of the Public Interest within the Planning Process

Establishing the Role Planners Have in the Determination of Land Uses within our Urban, Regional, and Rural Areas

Understanding the Decision-Making Environment in the Determination of Land Use

Initial Identification of the Major Stakeholders within the Land Use Approval Process

Establishment of the Need to Formulate Plans and/or Policies in Problem-Solving Critical Thinking before Undertaking Required Action

Establishment of How Plans and Policies are implemented in the Planning Process

*OWL Reading: Planners as Negotiators*

Establishment of the Need to Monitor and Evaluate the Implemented Plans and Policies in the Land Use Planning Process

**Urban, Regional and Rural Land Use Planning within the Province of Ontario: A Historical Overview of the Legislative/ Policy Structure to Regulate our Constantly Evolving Diversified/Intermixed Urban Fabric and the Need to Control/Contain Suburban Sprawl:**

October 3, 2017 to

October 31, 2017: A Top-Down Approach in Reviewing Planning from the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Levels

Establishment of the Policy Structure in the Province of Ontario

Establishment of the Planning Structure and Horizontal Integration of Planning in the Province of Ontario

Establishment of the Planning System in the Province of Ontario through the Review of the Following:

Upper, Lower, and Single Tier Municipalities

The Municipal Act

The Planning Act

*OWL Reading: General Plan Evaluation Criteria*

Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)

## Municipal Land Use Development Controls

### Review of Other Regulatory Provincial Ministries and Public Bodies that Impact Land Use and Development

October 24, 2017: Midterm Test

#### **Planning Sustainable Cities in Our Current and Future Settings:**

November 7, 2017 to  
November 28, 2017:

The Need to Create Sustainable Urbanism in order to Respond or Be Accountable to Climate and Environmental Changes by Creating Alternative Development

Smart Growth, Gentrification, Compact Urban Growth, Infill and Intensification, Mixed Use Development and Place Making, Creating Healthy and Environmentally Friendly Communities through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and LEED – Neighbourhood Development (LEED-ND) Development Projects, Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites, Re-Urbanization of our Inner-City Cores, Regional Sprawl by-way-of Strategic Satellite Urban Centres in Close Proximity to Ontario's Traditional Large-Scale Cities, Preservation of Farmland, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and Creating Healthy/Sustainable Communities

**Note:** Government and Private Interest Initiatives Will Be Cited as Examples of the Viability of These Above Referenced Land Use Planning Alternatives

#### **Key Province-Wide and Local-Level Decision-Making Requirements in Land Use Planning:**

December 5, 2017: Conservation Authorities and Watercourse Controls

Overview of the Major Impact Municipal Servicing Has in the Determination of Land Uses

**Note:** Changes to course material and times that it is taught may occur during the term

## Course Tools:

**Lecture Based Course – There is no Required Textbook**

**Supplementary OWL Readings**

**Course Related Newspaper Articles on OWL**

**District, Regional, County and Urban (Local-Level) Official Plan Website Links**

## Course Assignments and Grading:

Group Assignment: Presentation (5%) & Written Submission (10%):	15%
Midterm Test (October 24, 2017):	25%
Planning Report (December 5, 2017):	25%
Final Exam (TBA):	25%
In-Class Short Answer Questions (5%) & Class Participation (5%)	10%

Group Assignment and presentation members will be established by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> week. During this time period, a sign-up sheet will be provided and finalized. The PowerPoint component of the Group Assignment will be electronically submitted to me the day before its presentation and the written component is due the date that it is presented.

All students will be required to write the midterm test. There will only be one opportunity to write a make-up midterm test if proper documentation is provided.

Group Assignments and Planning Reports are to be personally handed to the instructor on the due date at the beginning of class. If assignments are not submitted on the due date, there will be an automatic 10% late penalty. In addition, a daily 1% mark deduction (weekends count as one weekday) will apply. Assignments will not be accepted if handed in more than one week after the due date. ***If reports are submitted outside of class, they must be dropped off at the Geography Office (because they are required to be stamped).*** Students are required to keep a copy of all materials handed in for the course.

Late penalties will be waived for justifiable medical and humanitarian grounds. In these cases, appropriate documentation must be provided or a mark of zero will be assigned.

**Note:**

The Lectures and Lecture materials are copyrighted (copyright held by Sergio E. Pompili). No duplication is allowed. This includes at minimum audio, video and written duplication.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all the course prerequisites. “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

**Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

*Additionally,*

*A) If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline:*

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

*B) If computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be given, and software might be used to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating, the following statement must be added to course outlines:*

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

**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/>