School of Planning  
Faculty of Environment  
University of Waterloo

PLAN 431 / PLAN 614  
Issues in Housing  
Winter 2021  

Instructor:  
Dr. Martine August  
Open Office Hour held Thursdays 12:00-1:00pm  
martine.august@uwaterloo.ca

Class Organization: This class includes both synchronous and asynchronous elements.  
- Synchronous meetings: Thursdays 11:00-11:50am using Microsoft Teams  
- Asynchronous activities: To be completed in week prior to synchronous meetup

Calendar Description: The first part consists of an overview of housing in Canada considering federal, provincial and municipal policy as well as the housing industry. In the second part, special topics such as live/work, homelessness, affordability, environment and other issues are discussed.  
Course ID: 007539  
Prerequisite: Level of at least 3A

Student Evaluation*  

Participation  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midpoint self-assessment</td>
<td>36% (9 x 4%)</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final self-assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due March 1 (Week 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion Boards</td>
<td>36% (9 x 4%)</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous Meeting Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Posts (2)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1 - Housing in the News</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due Feb. 25 (Week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 - Housing in the City</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Due April 8 (Week 12)</td>
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*Expectations for graduate students and undergraduates differ for main assignments

Course Description:  
This course explores social and political issues related to housing, and the role of planning in both ameliorating and reproducing housing inequality. We will examine the role of government, the private sector, and other actors in the housing system. A central emphasis will on the political-economic factors that shape how housing is distributed and experienced in the contemporary city, and how the provision and development of housing relates to social justice in the city. Special attention will be paid to the ways that housing access and inequality differ along lines of race, class, gender, sexuality, age, and ability; examining processes and phenomena including gentrification, segregation, and homelessness. This course focuses primarily on examples from cities in the Global North, with a particular emphasis on the United States, Canada, and Toronto.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to meet the following objectives:
• Students will gain core knowledge about the key players, policies, and forces that shape the provision and development of housing in Canada (with a focus on southern Ontario).
• Students will learn to evaluate and critically analyze the role of planning in contributing to, reinforcing, or ameliorating social inequality in the city as it relates to housing.
• Students will learn to interpret academic and non-academic texts, synthesize information, and develop an argument related to course themes.

**Learning Modes:** This class is designed as a hybrid between a seminar- and a lecture-style class. A seminar involves learning through deep and thoughtful engagement with assigned readings, and through in-class debate and discussion with classmates. As a result, students are expected to join on-line and synchronous discussions having carefully read the readings, and must be ready to discuss their thoughts and insights with classmates. **Students are expected to complete required readings ahead of the synchronous meet-up.** This course will use the University’s Learn system to distribute readings, as a communication tool, and as a way to submit certain assignments. The course will use Microsoft Teams for synchronous meet-ups.

**Required Readings and Texts:** There is a required text for this course (listed below) which can be purchased at verso.com. In addition, required readings will be assigned each week (chapters, essays, articles) which will be posted on Learn.


**STUDENT EVALUATION**

Details on these assignments are found on Learn, via Content > Assignments. Expectations and details (length, requirements) will differ for undergraduate and graduate students.

**Weekly Discussion Boards** 36% (9 x 4%)
Students will share a minimum of nine discussion posts, responding to weekly readings and course materials, and engage in discussion by responding to a minimum of three posts by other classmates. Posts should be 300 words and include a question. Scores are self-assessed, with two self-assessment reports submitted throughout the term.

**Synchronous Meeting Participation** 10%
Grade for attendance and participation in weekly synchronous meetings. Please attend ready to discuss, ask questions, and participate in activities.

**Field Trip** 9% (2 x 4.5%)
Students will take a stroll and observe the housing environment and landscape en route. Take a photo and describe how course readings, themes, and content help you to make sense of your site. Posts are 100-200 words. Students must post twice. Grades will improve with references to course materials, scholarly literature, and additional research on site history.

**Assignment #1 (20%) – Housing in the News – Due March 11 (Week 8)**
Students will select 3-5 newspaper articles on a topic of their choosing related to housing, and describe the content of the articles and identify key themes related to course topics. Papers are 4 pages (6 for graduates) with a minimum of three scholarly references (five for graduate students).

**Assignment #2 (25%) – Housing and Planning – Due April 8 (Week 12)**
Students will choose a particular housing development, site, or community in their town (or another town), and reflect on its planning and development in light of course-related themes. Papers must draw on planning documents, scholarly literature (minimum 5 sources), media, and must make an argument. Potential sites will be posted on Learn. Length is 6-7 pages. **Grad students see Learn for details.**
Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Introductory synchronous meeting: Jan. 14 11:00-11:50am on Microsoft Teams</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 15-21</td>
<td><strong>Homeownership</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan. 22-28</td>
<td><strong>Housing Policy 1: Foundations and Postwar Housing Policy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jan. 29-Feb. 4</td>
<td><strong>Housing Policy 2: the Golden Age and the Neoliberal Era</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb. 5-11</td>
<td><strong>Homelessness, Encampments, and the Right to Housing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 12-19</td>
<td>Reading Week – no activities scheduled, no meeting Feb. 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb. 22-25</td>
<td><strong>Gentrification, Displacement, and Evictions</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb. 26-Mar. 4</td>
<td><strong>Race and Housing Inequality</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar. 5-11</td>
<td><strong>Housing and the Sharing Economy</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar. 15-16</td>
<td>Scheduled pause</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar. 12-18</td>
<td><strong>Non-Market Housing Solutions: Affordability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 19-25</td>
<td><strong>Financialization of Housing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mar. 26-Apr. 1</td>
<td><strong>Climate Justice and Housing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Apr. 2-8</td>
<td><strong>Housing Activism and COVID-19</strong></td>
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Policies:

- **Lateness penalty**: Assignments are due on the date set by the professor. Teaching assistants are not allowed to change the due dates. A penalty of 5% per day will be applied to late assignments. An assignment more than 4 days business days late will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be recorded for that assignment.
- **Stuff happens policy**: If you want to hand something in late, you have 3 days to use throughout the term for late submissions (this does not apply to Weekly Responses).
- **Email**: Please email the instructor from your uwaterloo.ca account only. I will respond within 48 hours, weekends and holidays excepted.
- **Extensions, Etc**: Requests for exemptions or compassionate considerations: are to be discussed with the professor in advance or as soon as possible.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Academic integrity**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. The University’s guiding principles on academic integrity can be found at: [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity). ENV students
are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the University’s Academic Integrity Officer: http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Students/index.html

**Students are also expected to know what constitutes academic integrity**, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their actions. Student who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who need help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g. plagiarism, cheating), or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students may also visit this webpage: https://uwaterloo.ca/library/get-assignment-and-research-help/academic-integrity/academicintegrity-tutorial. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70 - Student Grievance: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70.

**Notes for Students with Disabilities**
The AccessAbility Office located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AccessAbility Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**Mental health**
The Faculty of Environment considers student well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and/or emotional. Please note that help is available. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services (www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

**Religion observances**
Student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

**Grievance**
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

**Appeals**
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm
LEARN
Course information will be accessible on the LEARN platform. Users can login to LEARN via: http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password. Documentation for LEARN is available at: http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training_documentation/index.html

LEARN is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to manage course materials (posting of lecture notes etc.), interact with their students (drop boxes for student submissions, on-line quizzes, discussion boards, course e-mail etc.), and provide feedback (grades, assignment comments etc.). The degree to which LEARN is utilized in a particular course is left to the discretion of the instructor and therefore, you may find a large variance in how LEARN is being used from course to another.

Dr Martine August acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.