

**Environmental Studies Basic Graduate Course Outline/Syllabus**  
**FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN CHANGE, YORK UNIVERSITY**

**ENVS 6124: Urban Regional-Planning: International and Comparative Perspectives**  
**Fall 2021**

**Time and Location:** Tuesdays 2:30-5:20, Vari Hall (VH) 2005

**Course Director:** Stefan Kipfer, HNES 245; [kipfer@yorku.ca](mailto:kipfer@yorku.ca), 736-2100 ext. 22619

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1-2 pm or by appointment.

**Course Description**

his course offers an introduction to urban-regional planning in the modern world, specifically large metropolitan regions and the networks that connect them. The focus is on crucial historical moments in modern planning history. Debates and practical dilemmas in planning are explored comparatively and internationally, through case studies with world-historical importance.

**Course Objectives**

- (1) Introduce students to world-historical moments in planning practice
- (2) Promote an understanding of the inter- and transnational dimensions of planning
- (3) Discuss real-world dilemmas in modern planning through analyses of concrete historical cases
- (4) Shed comparative light on Canadian urban-regional planning history
- (5) Study the relationship between the spatial form and the social content of planning

**Requirements**

This class is a graduate seminar that requires active participation and careful pre-class preparation by everyone, course director and students alike. In general, the class will be organized around (1) a first round of student comments and questions based on the weekly readings (2) introductory remarks by the course director or guests and (3) student discussions in the plenary or small groups, supplemented, as appropriate by (4) discussions about contemporary planning or planning-related issues. Students must attend classes regularly, digest required readings, observe ongoing developments in the wider world that are of relevance to the course, and participate actively in classroom discussions.

Assignments include (A) eight weekly reading reports that discuss with in clear language and with precision *one, central* theme present in all the readings (on one single-spaced page due at the beginning of each class), and, (B) a reflection paper carefully comparing two very different approaches to planning: *People's Planning: Kerala, Local Democracy and Development* by T.M. Thomas Isaac and Richard W. Franke (New Delhi: Left Word, 2021) and *Planning Canadian Communities* by Gerald Hodge, David Gordon, Pamela Shaw (2020) (12-15 pages). Upon timely requests, students can also write a research paper on a topic with a comparative, international or historical dimension (length 16-20 pages).

**Readings:**

The mandatory readings comprise 'classic' and 'cutting-edge' contributions. They are available mostly in electronic form, as **electronic journal articles, e-books**, on **e-class**, or on the **web**. A few are available in a thin **course kit** available from the York bookstore or York Library reserves. *People's Planning* and *Planning Canadian Communities* are available for **on-line purchase** from the **York bookstore**.

**Important Course information**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage

§ Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website

§ Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants

§ Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities

§ Student Conduct Standards

§ Religious Observance Accommodation