



*Learning from the experience of Seattle and Portland Oregon*

## Introduction

Recent developments in Canadian cities have indicated a need for planners and other urban professionals concerned with urban growth management policies. This course will provide both theoretical understanding and practical insights into these issues through a comparative assessment of urban growth management strategies in Seattle and Portland Oregon.

## Objectives

Within this framework the objectives of the course are:

1. To provide an understanding of planning policies affecting urban growth management;
2. To develop practical knowledge on planning alternatives to implement these policies in the most efficient and effective manner.

## Teaching Approach

The course consists of lectures, seminar presentations, project work, and field visits. Students will explore different aspects of urban policy development through research and evaluation of different approaches to urban growth management. The course will incorporate field visits in the two cities from April 14 to 21, 2002. The fieldwork component will provide an opportunity for intensive study of urban planning and growth management policies, as well as for discussions and interviews with planning professionals, developers and academics. This important element of the course will enable students to learn and experience the outcomes of urban planning in Seattle and Portland Oregon.

## Content: Topic Areas

Planning concepts and policies within the following thematic areas will be explored in a comparative perspective:

- Regional Planning: Institutional and Policy Frameworks
- Urban Growth Management, Transportation Planning, Transit Oriented Developments
- Neighbourhood Planning and Design, Urban Villages, Housing Redevelopment.

Discussions along these lines will be guided by several fundamental questions: What can we learn from the regional planning experience of Seattle and Portland Oregon? How do planners manage growth? What planning policies make the implementation process successful? What best practices in neighbourhood planning or transit oriented development can be transferred to the Canadian context?

## Evaluation

Throughout the course, students will have specific responsibilities related to the analysis and evaluation of different approaches/planning alternatives to urban growth management. Participation in the field trip as well as the completion of a research paper will qualify the student for a course credit. Depending on specific interests, students might be able to work individually or in teams. The research paper should include a literature review pertinent to the topic and evaluation of an urban planning concept preferably in a comparative perspective. The topic of the research paper should be related to the thematic areas listed above and approved by the instructor. The outcome of this group project will provide a vital mechanism for collective learning of the material, and for the development of a range of practical urban planning skills.

Student evaluation will be based on:

Field work	35%
Literature review	25%
Evaluation of selected case studies	25%
Presentation of results	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Readings

Copies of articles, papers and reports for the course, arranged under the main thematic areas, will be made available in the EVDS Resource Centre.

### Notes:

1. Term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor.
2. A student with a disability who may require academic accommodation must register with the Disability Resource Centre (contact 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters should be provided to the course instructor no later than 14 days after the commencement of the course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.
3. The Faculty of Environmental Design and CityInvest Ltd. will provide financial support for the field component of the work.