
Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Opportunity - CUPE 2278 2025/26 Winter Session (Sep-Apr)

PLAN 500 – Comparative Perspectives on Planning History and Futures

Academic Term:	25WT1 (Sep-Dec)
Instructor & Supervisor:	Michael Hooper
Number of Positions:	One (1)
Appointment Start Date:	Sep 1, 2025
Appointment End Date:	Dec 31, 2025
Total Hours:	120 hrs/position
Application Closing Date:	

This course undertakes a detailed, comparative examination of the history, and possible futures of, planning in a global context. It examines planning in diverse settings and highlights the ways in which planning has been and might be conceived and practiced across the Global North and South. It seeks to introduce students to the wide variety of planning paradigms, approaches and techniques that have been deployed by planners and other actors who create and are affected by plans. The course highlights the differences and similarities in the way planning has been conceived and undertaken across geographies. It pays particular attention to the debates, trade-offs, compromises and tensions that have dominated the way planners have approached their work and how they conceptualize and plan for the future. Rather than focusing on descriptions of key events or people (although those are covered too), the course is structured around a number of important analytic themes that can help students understand the work of planners across a wide range of temporal, geographic, political, economic and cultural settings.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience

The applicant must be registered in a PhD or Master's program at UBC Vancouver and have:

- An enthusiasm for and willingness to learn about a wide variety of planning contexts, particularly across cultures and/or national boundaries, including topics unrelated to one's past research, professional or personal experience
- Strong knowledge of and/or interest in planning history and planning theories
- An interest in, and willingness to engage with, diverse types of data, arguments and analytical approaches, ranging from ethnography to regression. In short, the TA should be an open-minded scholar with a deep curiosity about different kinds of positions, arguments and methods
- An openness to, and interest in, viewpoints unlike one's own

Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of planning and interest in key political, economic and philosophical ideas that have shaped planning practice and the built and natural environments
- Strong interest in current urbanism and planning trends and issues
- Strong communication skills (written and verbal); strong appreciation of visual content would be an asset
- Ability to facilitate discussions around challenging topics
- Ability to provide students with constructive guidance and feedback
- Effective time management (plan, organize, and prioritize workload)
- Excellent team player
- Interest in pedagogy and teaching
- Competence in, or willingness to learn about, on-line learning technology

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Graduate Teaching Assistant duties include but are not limited to:

- Managing discussion groups and guiding conversations and exercises

- Marking assignments, including the provision of constructive guidance and feedback
- Academic assistance to students during office hours
- Maintaining and managing records of student attendance and assignment grades