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

PLAN 505 – Planning Theory, Values and Ethics

Academic Term:	25WT2 (Jan-Apr)
Instructor & Supervisor:	Michael Hooper
Number of Positions:	One (1)
Appointment Start Date:	Jan 1, 2026
Appointment End Date:	Apr 30, 2026
Total Hours:	120 hrs/position
Application Closing Date:	

This course undertakes an examination of planning theory, with a particular focus on values and ethics, and explores the role of these topics in planning practice and in policymaking more broadly. It builds on the foundation established in Plan 500, which focused on the history of planning and on the theories and ideas that have animated planning, as undertaken by diverse actors, over the long term. In this course, we will pay particular attention to the important values-oriented and ethical questions that planners are likely to face in their work and which are also at the centre of much scholarly work on planning. Since planning as a profession and a field of intellectual inquiry is rich in theories, we will narrow our focus on a subset of themes and questions that are likely to play an important role in students' lives as they go on to work in planning and which can provide useful lenses for guiding decision making and action. In short, the course will seek to be as applied as a theory course can be. The course will involve extensive in-class discussion, applied case exercises and site visits.

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
- A willingness to respect diverse perspectives, including perspectives in tension or conflict with 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 and activities in consideration of varying group dynamics
- Interest in case-based and scenario-based learning
- Interest in getting out into cities on fieldtrips and applying knowledge through hands-on engagement with places
- 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:

- Teaching tutorials and leading case study exercises and field trips under supervision of faculty
- Managing discussion groups
- 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