



COURSE DESCRIPTION – FACULTY OF LAW

COURSE NUMBER: **651:A1**

COURSE NAME: **Municipal & Planning Law**

PREREQUISITE COURSES: **N/A**

PREREQUISITE FOR: **N/A**

CREDITS: **3** HOURS PER TERM: **3** TERM: **1st** MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT:

PROFESSOR: **E. Kaplinsky**

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: **lecture**

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Final examination worth 100%. Students may elect in consultation with the instructor to write two short (5 pages each) commentaries or case comments for 20% of their grade, in which case their final exam will account for 80% of their grade.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the legal framework for implementing land use policy in Alberta, with particular emphasis on the structure and powers of local governments. We begin by asking some controversial questions: when should development be regulated, and when best left to the market? What is the role of municipalities in the planning process, and what powers should they have? We proceed to examine the development approval process, including the rights of neighbours and other affected parties to challenge undesirable development, and the institutions and mechanisms designed to resolve land use disputes. We study a range of regulatory tools, including statutory plans, zoning, and subdivision controls under the *Municipal Government Act*, as well as private instruments such as restrictive covenants and homeowners associations. Various approaches will be used to tackle contemporary debates over issues such as “smart growth” and sprawl, and affordable housing.

REQUIRED TEXT: course materials will be available online or for purchase