



A31SFA Urban Morphology and Urban Design Theories 6.0 credits

Stadens form och teori

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for A31SFA valid from Autumn 2011

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

First cycle

Main field of study

Architecture, Technology

Specific prerequisites

The student must fulfill the curricular requirements for the third year.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

After completing this course, students should:

- have gained the fundamental knowledge of how urban morphology interacts with other urban systems, and demonstrate the ability to apply that knowledge in concrete urban planning exercises;
- have a deeper understanding of and be able to critically reflect on how urban morphology structures and shapes urban space, and how this has strategic importance for sustainable urban development;
- be able to thematically identify and discuss the importance of urban space for social, economic, and ecological sustainability, but also demonstrate the ability to integrate these into concrete urban planning schemes;
- have a fundamental knowledge of the historical development of urban theories and urban planning theories, with in-depth knowledge of several examples;
- be able to contribute to critical and analytical discussions of relevant texts, and to identify and argue for their relevance to contemporary urban planning, both nationally and internationally; and
- reflect on how socioeconomic conditions and political systems and practices influence the role of the architect and the practice of urban planning.

Course contents

This course is an introduction to urban morphology—its fundamental concepts and components and the analytical theories and methods for describing and critically discussing them. The key concepts and components that are introduced, discussed, and tested in exercises are: density, accessibility, diversity, landscape, place, and typology. Central to the course is giving students a deeper understanding of urban morphology as the key medium for architects engaged in urban development, but also how it interacts with and influences other fundamental urban phenomena such as public character, market segments, and ecosystems. In lectures and readings, the course presents the fundamental importance of urban space for social sustainability through for example social integration, economic sustainability through local markets, and ecological sustainability through establishing and strengthening urban ecological systems. These aspects are also applied in concrete exercises.

The course also introduces different traditions in urban theory from a global perspective. Students confront many examples with various points of departure, approaches, and methods to help them critically reflect and evaluate the consequences of each in relation to various urban planning traditions. The course aims to develop a frame of reference made up of various viewpoints and strategies that are relevant to contemporary urban development. It includes fundamental discussions about power theory perspectives, and how socioeconomic conditions and political systems and practices influence the role of the architect and the practice of urban planning.

The course is divided into two parts.

Course literature

Information will be given at the start of the course.

Examination

- MOM1 - Moment 1, 3.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- MOM2 - Moment 2, 3.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Other requirements for final grade

The learning outcomes are examined through the records of the design process, and through the outcomes of the course specified assignments. To achieve the approved level (pass) students must have approved tasks, including 80% attendance at lectures, seminars, tutorials and reviews.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.