



A31STA Urban Theory 3.0 credits

Stadsbyggnadsteori

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

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for A31STA valid from Autumn 2008

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

First cycle

Main field of study

Architecture

Specific prerequisites

Two years of architectural studies. Students from landscape architecture or planning programmes may be admitted.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

Overall description: The objectives of the course is to give the students the knowledge of different methods of urban analysis and to realise their power when it comes to understanding, presenting and arguing the impact of urban planning and design schemes. After completing the course, the student shall:

- * Understand the points of departure, aims and biases in concepts and analytical tools in urban analysis.

- * Have a thorough understanding of the practical value of such concepts and tools in the design process – from formulations of briefs, to analysis and support for design work, and to final presentation.

Course contents

Overall description: How architects and planners act upon the city relies on the knowledge they have on the city, which in turn relies on descriptions and representations of the city, conceptual as well as diagrammatic. This course is an introduction to fundamental concepts and tools in such description, where the relation between the built environment (urban morphology) and urban life (urban sociology) is stressed.

Disposition

Overall description: The course is based on a series of lectures that outlines the history of urban description and analysis during the 20th century. The historic setting of different approaches are presented but the emphasis lies on a synchronous analysis and understanding of these approaches, that is, trying to understand their internal logic and priorities. The lectures are supported by literature. The course is examined through a written assignment where the student writes a critical essay of a classic in urban design theory.

Course literature

Will be presented at the start of the course

Examination

- MOM1 - Moment, 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.

Other requirements for final grade

Overall description: 85% attendance at lectures and seminars

Written assignment (1500 words) handed in within the time limits of the course.

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.