



AG2115 Contemporary Trends in Urban Planning and Design 15.0 credits

Contemporary Trends in Urban Planning and Design

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 AG2115 valid from Autumn 2007

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Architecture

Specific prerequisites

Compulsory for Urban Planning and Design MSc. Program students and for others: 120 credits from architecture, landscape architecture or urban and town planning programmes (Permission of Instructor).

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

The course will adopt a critical perspective towards contemporary trends in urban planning and design, in order to develop an in-depth approach toward a more meaningful urban design for the future. The objective of the course is to stimulate students to formulate their own viewpoints by sharpening their critical thinking and enabling a provocative debate into the inquiry of the conceptual nature of urban design. The course concentrates on urban design studios where students will investigate the complex nature of 'successful' urban design trends (those that are at the leading edge of practice today) and attempts to identify and evaluate examples of programmatic and experimental urban design on macro, meso and micro levels. The course also includes selected films (motion pictures) on global cities (Europe & North America). This tool and analysis sessions as follow-up will enable the students in learning how to observe, analyze, problematize, discuss and criticize as well how to best design cities.

After completing the course the students will:

- Comprehend more clearly the relation between theory and practice in urban planning and design and the plethora of disciplines involved in bridging architecture and planning on micro and meso scales.
- Understand theoretically and practically the complexities of urban design issues in not just designing but also retrofitting suburban, town or central urban areas.
- Have good knowledge and understanding of problems that arise in creating and maintaining environments for urban activities as well as approaches and methods of urban planning and design in helping to cope with such problems.
- Have good knowledge and understanding of various contemporary approaches and trends to everyday urbanism problems in cities and suburban areas.
- Be able to express own urban planning and design results as well as other viewpoints in a coherent and qualitative way by the way of drawings, sketches, essays and ad-lib/oral manner.
- Have advanced skills of urban design studio work in order to comprehend major urban issues both as end users and as researchers and technical experts.

Course contents

One of the major difficulties and problems with contemporary urban design theory, debate and practice is the sense that urbanism is 'architecture, only at a larger scale and within an urban context'. This results in far too much emphasis on the 'design', and not enough of an understanding of the 'urban' factors. The course focuses on experimental and conscious design choices in the urban scale and examines selected aspects of urban planning and design that will apply to selected issues, ideas and contemporary theories. The main project deals with the development of a specific area in the greater Stockholm region. The basics of city-making and urban analysis is presented in a set of design exercises where students first

will have the possibility to apply a chosen contemporary trend in urban planning and design in the project area. The idea is to illustrate and get 'hands on' knowledge of the practical consequences of different trends and ideals. In the following project, proposals are developed with a close link to an individual programmatic or ideological standpoint. As a basis for this, students will complete an urban planning and design essay based primarily on the assigned contemporary readings, which will include a discussion of selected literature and specific design comparisons. The own programmatic text and the own design is presented as a coherent proposal for future urban development. Studios and charrettes involve working in teams with distinguished guest design professionals as well as local practitioners and community representatives. Finally the overall emphasis in this last course in the UPD program is placed on understanding the fundamental principles, processes, and contemporary theories of urban design and the relations between individual buildings, public places, streets and groups of buildings, and the larger physical (city & region) and cultural contexts (people & society) in which they are created and with which they dynamically interact.

Disposition

Lectures, Film Presentations and Interactive Discussion
Urban Design Studios & Critique (with SketchUp™ or other software)
Literature Readings, Essay Writing and Plenum Sessions
Short Urban Planning and Design Exercises (with FutureScape®)

Course literature

Compulsory Course Book

Shane, David Grahame. 2005. *Recombinant Urbanism: Conceptual Modeling in Architecture, Urban Design and City Theory*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Required* and Suggested readings

Ellin, Nan. 2006. *Integral Urbanism*. New York: Routledge.*

Moor, Malcolm and Rowland, Jon (Editors). 2006. *Urban Design Futures*. London: Routledge.*

Michael Larice and Elizabeth Macdonald (Editors) 2006. *The Urban Design Reader*. New York: Routledge.*

Shamiyeh, Michael and DOM Research Laboratory (Editors). 2006. *What People Want – Populism in Architecture and Design*. Frankfurt: Birkhauser.

Lang, Jon. 2005. *Urban Design: A typology of Procedures and Products*. Boston: Architectural Press.

Fishman, Robert, Mehrotra, Rahul and Strickland, Roy (Editors). 2004. *Everyday Urbanism, New Urbanism and Post Urbanism & ReUrbanism (Michigan Debates on Urbanism I-III)*. New York: Arts Press.*

Koolhaas, Rem (Editor). 2004. *Content: Triumph of Realization*. Köln: Taschen.

Watson, Donald, Plattus, Alan and Shibley, Robert. 2003. Time-Saver Standards for Urban Design. New York: McGraw-Hill Professional.

Coates, Nigel. 2003. A Guide to Ectacity. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Joke Brouwer and Arjen Mulder. 2002. TransUrbanism. Rotterdam: V2_Publishing and NAI Publishers.

Freestone, Robert (Editor). 2000. Urban Planning in a Changing World: The 20th Century Experience. London: E & FN Spon.

Examination

- INL1 - Urban Design Paper Essay, 3.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- PRO1 - Studio Project & Critique Presentation, 7.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- PRO2 - Participation in Course Discussion/presentation, 3.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- ÖVN1 - Urban Design and Planning Exercises, 1.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, 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

Short Urban Design Paper Essay 3 cr

Short Urban Design and Planning Exercises 1,5 cr

Urban design studio project & critique presentation 7,5 cr

Learning from Film Analysis, Discussion and Sketching 1,5 cr

Attendance and (pro) active participation in the course discussions 1,5 cr

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.