



AG2123 Stockholm Urban Lab I

7.5 credits

Stockholm Urban Lab I

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for AG2123 valid from Autumn 2009

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

The Built Environment

Specific prerequisites

Three years studies (total 180 credits) in Architecture, Town Planning, Urban Planning or Landscape Architecture.

Generell admission requirements to the UPD program.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

To give a comprehensive overview of Swedish urban development with a specific focus on the greater Stockholm area. To present the present urban geography and landscape of Stockholm – built up areas, transport systems, architectural types, green areas etc – analyzed as a result of different time periods different political, technical, economical, ideological and architectural circumstances and driving forces – here summarized as different “Urban Regimes”. To introduce students to the built result of the different urban strategies, choices, values and development methods that has created the present city – problems as well as advantages.

A secondary aim is to stress the interconnectedness of analysis and synthesis, which is the basic characteristic of the UPD program as a whole. Students will start to reflect on the close connections between time defined theories, economic and political circumstances and the result of these in the form of built up areas and transportation systems. Lectures, study visits, readings and short design assignments are in this course closely connected.

A third aim is to start converting lessons from literature, lectures and study visits into design – urban analysis as well as urban design proposals. Assignments are presented as limited conceptual sketches, with the primary aim to read a place and a situation not only by understanding and reflecting – but also in the form of urban design proposals and development strategies.

After completing the course the students will be able to:

- Discuss some basic connections between urban paradigms, economic and political realities – and the impact of these in the built up environment.
- Refer to and have a basic knowledge of Stockholm’s urban history.
- Grasp the basic pattern of Stockholm’s urban geography.
- Understand some of the basic urban design ideals that have formed Stockholm and it’s surroundings.
- Make short analyses and design proposals connected to the present development of Stockholm.

Course contents

The course follows the time line of development, as described in the compulsory text book, Stockholm Annual Rings (Magnus Anderson) which also is the basis for literature seminars. The course will use situations, places, problems and present project developments in greater Stockholm as it’s raw material for analysis and design assignments. The objective is to give an understanding of what forces, ideas and actors that have formed the urban landscape of Sweden’s main city and Capital. In short, the course will provide students with:

1. Common concepts for discussion and design.
2. Common references in the Stockholm area.
3. Common group exercises, fast sketch assignments.

Disposition

The course is divided into 4 basic themes, covered in 2 weeks each.

1. Basic history and geography of Stockholm – origins and structure. Concepts: the medieval city, the “stone city”, the planned city.
2. The 20th century planned city – the modernist expansion, the state driven city, the public transportation and car city. Concepts: The neighborhood unit, traffic separation, functional division.
3. The late 20th century city – the new ideals of rebuilding and remaking the city, the densifying city. Concepts: The urban infill, “stadsmässighet”, modern attempts at creating urbanity.
4. The present global Stockholm, the market driven city. Concepts: Sustainability, attractiveness, business driven city.

Teaching methods

Short assignments linked to various study trips and excursions.

Literature seminars, short essay writings.

Group presentations of urban design analyses and proposals.

Course literature

The Annual rings of Stockholm, Magnus Andersson

Examination

- PRO2 - Project work, 4.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- NÄR2 - Lectures, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- SEM1 - Workshop, Seminar, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- ÖVN1 - Assignments, 1.5 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.

NÄR2 Lectures 1,0P, F PRO2 Project work 4,0P, F SEM1 Workshop, Seminar 1,0P, F ÖVN1 Assignments 1,5P, F

Other requirements for final grade

Literature seminars 1cr; Lectures 1cr; Group project work 4cr; Study trip assignments 1,5cr

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.