



AG2184 New Urban Sociology and Environmental Psychology for Urban Design 6.0 credits

Ny urbansociologi och miljöpsykologi för stadsutformning

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for AG2184 valid from Spring 2016

Grading scale

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

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

The Built Environment

Specific prerequisites

Three years of studies in urban planning, regional development, architecture, urban sociology, human geography, physical and town planning, urban design or similar. This course is not open to international exchange students.

Language of instruction

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

Intended learning outcomes

After completing the course requirements, students should be able:

- To infer the key forces that accelerate the growth and diversity of cities such as migration, globalisation, inequalities and others as well as to gain knowledge by extrapolating different ways in which various social, class and ethnic groups settle and interact in cities and neighborhoods.
- To comprehend correlations between housing and gentrification, public life and ethnic neighborhoods, city districts and social relations and how all these interactions between diverse groups produce new cultures, ideologies, and physical and social mobilities and mobilisations.
- To savvy the complex link of urban form and human behaviour, i.e. the role and impact of architecture, urban planning, town planning and urban design and landscape architecture on human behavior.
- To understand and study the complex structures, dynamic processes, transformative changes and emergent problems of an urban area and by doing so provide inputs for planning and policy making.

Course contents

Urban Sociology and Environmental psychology are interdisciplinary fields focused on the sociological study of life and human interaction in metropolitan areas and the interplay between individuals and their surroundings as well as the role of cities in the development of the society as whole. This module introduces the students to the major theoretical formulations and models in the area of environmental psychology related to people and places, such as privacy, personal space, place attachment and environmental restoration such as place identity, place attachment, environmental consciousness, behavior settings and others. Also the course explores new urban theory, as well as the evolution of cities including suburbanization, race relations, gentrification, street life, sustainability (economic, social and environmental), redevelopment, urban politics, and key international comparisons.

Readings in the course focus on theory, specific cities, and environmental concerns. Course will also address issues such as effects of the economic crisis on housing markets, democracy on public policy, and questions of social status, gender, lifestyles, and culture on urban development. Relationships between the physical environment, natural and human-made, and the behavior of human beings will be studied in-depth; focus is on perceptual, cognitive, and motivational aspects of the human-environmental interaction. Specific physical settings will be studied from the behavioral aspects in relation to issues of spatial determinism.

Disposition

The course is based on a set of seminars, papers and deep discussions on the subject where different views and viewpoints will be presented. The students will have a special plenum-debate session and a home examination on some of the main tenants in the field.

Course literature

The New Urban Sociology Paperback, 2014, Ray Hutchison, Mark Gottdiener and Michael T Ryan, Westview Press Inc; 5th edition, Boulder, Colorado

Urban Social Geography: An Introduction, 2010, Knox, Paul and Pinch, Steven, (6th Edition), London: Pearson Education

Cities by Design: The Social Life of Urban Form, 2013, Fran Tonkiss, New York: Polity Press
Place Attachment (Human Behavior and Environment), 1992 Irwin Altman and Setha M. Low (Editors)

Springer: New York and Public Places and Spaces (Human Behavior and Environment), 2013, Irwin Altman and Erwin H. Zube (Editors), Springer: New York

The People, Place, and Space Reader, 2014, Jen Jack Gieseking, William Mangold, Cindi Katz and Setha Low and Susan Saegert (Editors), New York: Routledge

Democracy and Public Space: The Physical Sites of Democratic Performance, 2012, John Parkinson, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Handbook of Environmental Psychology, 2002, Robert B. Bechtel and Arza Churchman (editors), New York: Wiley

Examination

- SEM1 - Literature Seminars, 1.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- TEN1 - Written Examination, 3.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- MOM2 - Research Project and Paper, 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.

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

Other requirements for final grade

Literature Seminars, 2.0, credits

Research Project (Group Exercise), 2.0 credits

Home Examination or Paper, 2.5 credits

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.