



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.

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

Establishment

Course syllabus for AG2184 valid from Spring 2018

Grading scale

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

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

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, together with AG2182.

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, globalization, 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 mobilizations.
- To savvy the complex link of urban form and human behavior, 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 urban areas and the interplay between individuals and their surroundings. The course explores the interdependent role cities play in the development of society as a whole, along with the changing character of urbanity. Students are introduced to key theoretical formulations and models in the area of environmental psychology related to people and places, such as personal space, place attachment, place identity, behavioral settings, environmental restoration, affordances, cognitive maps and wayfinding and others. Relationships between the physical environment, natural and human-made, and the behavior of human beings are studied in-depth; focusing on perceptual, cognitive, and motivational aspects of the human-environmental interaction. The course especially focuses on applications of behavioral studies in urban design projects. The course further explores theories surrounding urban societal development, notions of urbanity and the issues related to urban (re)development cities face today, such as aspects of social and environmental (in)justice, gentrification, and “urban sustainability”. Topics addressed include urban politics, economics and housing markets, democracy and participation in public policy processes, and questions of class, gender, ethnicity, and culture in relation to urban environments and lifestyles.

Disposition

The course is based on a set of seminars focused on assigned readings and deep discussions on the subject, where different views and viewpoints are presented. The students will hand in response papers for each seminar, and the course is concluded by a final paper on the students' topic of choice from the course.

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 Giesecking, 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

- MOMA - Literature assignment, 1.5 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- SEMA - Participation in literature seminars, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- TENA - Final paper, 3.5 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.

MOMA - Response papers, 1.5 credits, grade scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

SEMA - Literature Seminars, 1.0 credits, grade scale: P/F

TENA – Final paper, 3.5 credits, grade scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Other requirements for final grade

Response papers, 1.5 credits

Literature Seminars, 1.0 credits

Final paper, 3.5 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.