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## AG2184 NEW URBAN SOCIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY FOR URBAN DESIGN

6.0 credits  
Urbanism Studies  
ABE / KTH  
Spring 2017

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### COURSE COORDINATORS

Dr. H el ene Littke, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | [helene.littke@abe.kth.se](mailto:helene.littke@abe.kth.se)  
Dr. Pernilla Hagbert, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | [pernilla.hagbert@abe.kth.se](mailto:pernilla.hagbert@abe.kth.se)

### EXAMINER

Dr. Tigran Haas, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | [tigran@kth.se](mailto:tigran@kth.se)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 first 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 then goes on to explore theories surrounding urban societal development, starting with the Modern sociological “classics” that shaped urban theory and practice during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and followed by a critical review of the issues related to urban (re)development we face today, including aspects of social and environmental (in)justice, gentrification, and “urban sustainability”. The course addresses urban politics, economic systems and housing markets, democracy and participation in public policy processes, and questions of class, gender, ethnicity, and culture in relation to urban environments.

### DISPOSITION

The course comprises two parts: Environmental Psychology, lead by Dr. H el ene Littke, and New Urban Sociology, lead by Dr. Pernilla Hagbert (both from the division of Urban and Regional Studies at KTH).

### ELIGIBILITY

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.

## 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 survey 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.

## EXAMINATION

MOM2 - Research Project and Paper, 1.5 credits, grade scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

SEM1 - Literature Seminars, 1.0 credits, grade scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

TEN1 - Written Home Examination, 3.5 credits, grade scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

## REQUIREMENTS FOR FINAL GRADE

The course gives a total of 6.0 credits, split in examination moments that go across the two course parts. The final grade for the course (grade scale A-F) is an aggregation of the examination moments, meaning that to pass the course you need to have passed all of the course moments:

The *research project and paper* corresponds to the Environmental Psychology part of the course, with a focus on applications of behavioral studies on urban design projects. Connected to each lectures, written assignments are handed in comprising of a short reflection on the relevance of environmental psychology for urban planning and design. A full day exercise is carried out to further discuss applicability of environmental psychology theories in urban design projects and the grading is based on the individual paper connected to the exercise, building on the lecture assignments.

The *literature seminars* correspond to the Urban Sociology part and are centered on deep discussion about assigned thematic readings. Grading is based on active participation in the seminars, emphasizing critical engagement with the assigned readings (and not simply restating the literature). Students are encouraged to discuss how the raised theoretical and practical concerns can be applied to the field of urban design and planning in general, as well as in relation to particular individual interests among the students.

The *written examination*, as a home exam, comprises selected essay style questions based on the literature from the course as a whole, although a majority of the questions will focus on the assigned readings in the Urban Sociology part. Grading of the home exam is based on the ability to critically analyze different perspectives raised throughout the course (particularly in relation to the learning outcomes), to apply, challenge and synthesize concepts and theories, and to communicate this in succinct and well-structured answers.

## PART 1: ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

### LECTURER AND SEMINAR LEADER

Dr. Hélène Littke, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | helene.littke@abe.kth.se

The venue is the **Urbanism studio**.

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 9.15-12 / Course intro + Lecture 1.**

**Urban Green Space and Well-being – policy and spatial implications of social and psychological benefits of urban green space.**

The introduction will cover the Course PM and present requirements, dates and exercises.

*Assignment: write a 300-400 word reflection of the lecture; What was most interesting? What will you bring with you in your future profession? Reflection paper deadline: 14.15 25<sup>th</sup> of January.*

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of January 14.15-16 / Lecture 2**

**Environmental Psychology and Urban Design**

**Professor Maria Johansson, LTH**

Environmental psychology research in urban environments.

*Assignment: write a 300-400 word reflection of the lecture; What was most interesting? What will you bring with you in your future profession? Reflection paper deadline: 13.15 30<sup>th</sup> of January.*

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of January 13.15-15 / Lecture 3**

**The Discipline of Environmental Psychology**

**Professor Thorbjörn Laike, LTH**

Development of the discipline of Environmental Psychology and contemporary research.

*Assignment: write a 300-400 word reflection of the lecture; What was most interesting? What will you bring with you in your future profession? Reflection paper deadline: 9.15 14<sup>th</sup> of February.*

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of February 9.15-16 / Full day Exercise – Applications of Environmental Psychology in Urban Planning and Design**

At this full day exercise the students will focus on one of the following theoretical concepts: behavioral settings, affordances, place attachment, proxemics and cognitive maps and wayfinding. Full description and assignments of texts to be handed out separately.

*Before the exercise: read the assigned text and write a short description of the concept with definition and key references and a short research proposal discussing how the concept could be utilized within an urban planning and design project, 1 A4 (approximately 400 words), bring to the exercise.*

*After the exercise: Write a research paper (1500 words) discussing the theoretical concept and how to develop an urban design project applying the theory to a real life situation. Deadline: 23.55 the 19<sup>th</sup> of February.*

### Literature (in total approximately 180 pages):

Gifford, R. (2014). Environmental psychology matters. *Psychology*, 65(1), 541.

Churchman, A. (2002). *Environmental psychology and urban planning: Where can the twain meet.*

Handbook of environmental psychology, 191-200.

Behavioral settings: Popov, L., & Compalov, I. (2012). Crossing over: The interdisciplinary meaning of behavior setting theory. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(19), 18-27.

Affordances: Gibson, J. J. (2014). *The Theory of Affordances*, in *The ecological approach to visual perception: classic edition*. Psychology Press.

Place attachment: Manzo, L. C., & Perkins, D. D. (2006). Finding common ground: The importance of place attachment to community participation and planning. *Journal of planning*

- literature*, 20(4), 335-350. & Hidalgo, M. C., & Hernandez, B. (2001). Place attachment: Conceptual and empirical questions. *Journal of environmental psychology*, 21(3), 273-281.
- Proxemics: Hall, E. et al. (1968) Proxemics. *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 9, No. 2/3 (Apr. - Jun., 1968), pp. 83-108
- Cognitive maps and wayfinding: Chown, E., Kaplan, S., & Kortenkamp, D. (1995). Prototypes, location, and associative networks (PLAN): Towards a unified theory of cognitive mapping. *Cognitive Science*, 19(1), 1-51.
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## PART 2: NEW URBAN SOCIOLOGY

### LECTURER AND SEMINAR LEADER

Dr. Pernilla Hagbert, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | [pernilla.hagbert@abe.kth.se](mailto:pernilla.hagbert@abe.kth.se)

### SCHEDULE

For each seminar, read the assigned reading below and prepare to discuss.

The venue is the **Urbanism studio** and the time is **13.00 – 16.00**.

#### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of February / 1. Early urban sociology (55 pages)**

- Sennett, R. (1969). An introduction. In R. Sennett (Ed.), *Classic essays on the culture of cities* (pp. 3-19). Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.
- Weber, M. (1969[1921]). The nature of the city. In R. Sennett (Ed.), *Classic essays on the culture of cities* (pp. 23-46). Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.
- Simmel, G. (1969[1903]). The metropolis and mental life. In R. Sennett (Ed.), *Classic essays on the culture of cities* (pp. 47-60). Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.
- Wirth, L. (1938). Urbanism as a Way of Life. *American Journal of Sociology*, 44(1), 1-24.

#### **Wednesday 22<sup>th</sup> of February / 2. (the wickedness of...) planning and power (29 pages)**

- Rittel, H. W. J., & Webber, M. M. (1973). Dilemmas in a general theory of planning. *Policy Sciences*, 4(2), 155-169.
- Flyvbjerg, B. (2002). Bringing Power to Planning Research: One Researcher's Praxis Story. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 21(4), 353-366.

#### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of March / 3. Social, spatial and environmental (in)justice (68 pages)**

- Brenner, N., Marcuse, P., & Mayer, M. (Eds.). (2012). *Cities for People, Not for Profit. Critical urban theory and the right to the city*. London & New York: Routledge. ([Chapter 1](#) + [3](#))
- Young, I. M. (1999). Residential segregation and differentiated citizenship. *Citizenship Studies*, 3(2), 237-252.
- Pulido, L. (2000). Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 90(1), 12-40.

#### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of March / 4. Gentrification, social mix or social cohesion? (51 pages)**

- Davidson, M. (2009). Displacement, space and dwelling: Placing gentrification debate. *Ethics, Place and Environment*, 12(2), 219-234.
- Lees, L. (2008). Gentrification and Social Mixing: Towards an Inclusive Urban Renaissance? *Urban Studies*, 45(12), 2449-2470.
- Lloyd, K., Fullagar, S., & Reid, S. (2016). Where is the 'Social' in Constructions of 'Liveability'? Exploring Community, Social Interaction and Social Cohesion in Changing Urban Environments. *Urban Policy and Research*, 34(4), 343-355.

***Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> of March / 5. Sustainable urban development? (51 pages)***

Holden, E. (2004). Ecological footprints and sustainable urban form. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 19(1), 91-109.

Hult, A. (2015). The circulation of Swedish urban sustainability practices: to China and back. *Environment and Planning A*, 47(3), 537-553.

Jensen, J. O., Christensen, T. H., & Gram-Hanssen, K. (2011). Sustainable urban development—compact cities or consumer practices? *Danish Journal of Geoinformatics and Land Management*, 46(1), 50-64.

***Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of March / HAND-IN HOME-EXAMINATION***