



AG2184 NEW URBAN SOCIOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY FOR URBAN DESIGN

6.0 credits
Urbanism Studies
ABE / KTH
Spring 2018

COURSE COORDINATORS

Dr. Pernilla Hagbert, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | pernilla.hagbert@abe.kth.se
Dr. H elen  Littke, Ekologigruppen | helene.littke@ekologigruppen.se

EXAMINER

Dr. Tigran Haas, Urban and Regional Studies, KTH | 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 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.

ELIGIBILITY

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.

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.

EXAMINATION

SEM1 - Literature seminars, 1.0 credits, grade scale: P/F

MOM2 – Literature assignment, 1.5 credits, grade scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

TEN1 – Final paper, 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, and 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 *literature seminars* 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.

Literature assignment, in the form of a 1 page ‘response paper’ should be handed in for each seminar, discussing the assigned readings and summarizing students’ main reactions, important insights as well as criticisms. Students will take turns presenting and leading the seminar discussions based on discussion points identified in the response papers. Grading is based on readability and correct use of references, ability to identify and discuss central concepts, analyze the planning and design implications and the potential negative and positive effects for different groups or aspects of urban development.

In the *final paper*, you are asked to pick a topic of your choosing that has been addressed during the course and in the assigned readings, and that you find relevant with regards to your interests and ideas for your future work with urban issues. Grading of the final paper is based on the ability to critically analyze different perspectives raised in the course with respect to your chosen topic, and to apply, challenge and synthesize concepts and theories, and to communicate this in a well-structured text. The paper should not exceed 4000 words, including references.

SEMINAR INSTRUCTIONS

For each seminar, read the assigned reading and write a brief response paper to be handed in at the designated time (usually the same day as the seminar) on Canvas. *Late hand-ins will not be able to achieve a higher grade than C on MOM2.*

Response papers should be approximately 1 A4 page (about 400-500 words). You should base your paper on the assigned literature for the respective seminar and cite appropriately to illustrate your thoughts, following the Harvard system (Author, year). Questions you might address in the response paper for each seminar include:

- Was there something that surprised you about the readings? Is there something that still confuses you?
- How can you relate the readings to your own lived experience? Possible contradictions in your experiences versus the perspectives put forth in the texts?
- How can the raised theoretical and practical concerns be applied to the field of urban design and planning in general, as well as in relation to your particular individual interests?

The seminars are introduced by a 1 hour lecture on the specific topic, either by the teachers or invited lecturers, and is followed by 2 hours of peer discussion. The seminar discussion is to be initiated by students, and you will be divided into pairs at random, where each pair will be responsible for preparing for and introducing one seminar, addressing the seminar topic based on the main questions you've identified in your response paper.

SCHEDULE

The venue is the **Urbanism studio** and the time is **13.00 – 16.00** if nothing else is stated. The seminars are given in an integrative fashion, meaning that Environmental Psychology and Urban Sociology topics are addressed in a mixed order.

Friday January 12th 14.00-17.00

Course intro + Film seminar: What is *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*?

The Pruitt-Igoe Myth from 2011 by Chad Friedrichs (79 min). No required reading.

Friday January 26th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: Friday January 26th 12.00

1. The Discipline of Environmental Psychology

Lecture: Thorbjörn Laike, Professor of Environmental Psychology LTH

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.

Tuesday January 30th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: January 30th 12.00

2. Early urban sociology – the question of ‘the urban’?

Lecture: Dr. Pernilla Hagbert, researcher, Urban & Regional Studies, KTH

Sennett, R. (1969). An introduction. In R. Sennett (Ed.), *Classic essays on the culture of cities* (pp. 3-19). Englewood Cliffs: 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.

Friday February 2nd 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: February 2nd 12.00

3. Environmental Psychology in Urban Settings – examples from research

Lecture: Professor Maria Johansson, LTH

Johansson, M., Sternudd, C., & Kärrholm, M. (2016). Perceived urban design qualities and affective experiences of walking. *Journal of Urban Design*, 21(2), 256-275.

Johansson, M., Sternudd, C., & Ferreira, I. (2015). The Walkshop: a tool to integrate research on human aspects of sustainable urban design in teaching. *Högskola utbildning*, 5(3), 145-157.

Tuesday February 6th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: February 13th 12.00

4. Gentrification, social mix or social cohesion?

Lecture: Dr. Pernilla Hagbert, researcher, Urban & Regional Studies, KTH

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.

Young, I. M. (1999). Residential segregation and differentiated citizenship. *Citizenship Studies*, 3(2), 237-252.

Brook, D. (2017). Creative Alibis. *The Baffler*, June 2017. [Find it here:](https://thebaffler.com/salvos/creative-alibis-brook)

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Friday February 9th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: February 9th 12.00

5. Socio-spatial activism

Lecture: Professor Miguel Martinez, IBF, Uppsala University

Scott, A. J. & Storper, M. (2014). The Nature of Cities: The Scope and Limits of Urban Theory. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39 (1): 1–15.

Martínez, M.A. (2017). Social movements as city makers: contesting global capitalism and liberal democracy. Paper presented at a conference at Uppsala University.

Mayer, M. (2016). Neoliberal Urbanism and Uprisings Across Europe. In Mayer, M., Thörn, C., Thörn, H. (Eds.) *Urban Uprisings. Challenging Neoliberal Urbanism in Europe*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 57-92.

Tuesday February 13th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: Tuesday 6th 12.00

6. Planning and power

Lecture: Dr. Gustav Fridlund, civil servant, Botkyrka Municipality

Rittel, H. W. J., & Webber, M. M. (1973). Dilemmas in a general theory of planning. *Policy Sciences*, 4(2), 155-169.

Law, J. (2014). Working well with wickedness. CRESC Working Paper 135. ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change.

Flyvbjerg, B. (2002). Bringing Power to Planning Research: One Researcher's Praxis Story. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 21(4), 353-366.

Friday February 16th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: February 16th 12.00

7. Urban Green Space and Well-being – Environmental psychology for urban designers.

Lecture: Hélène Littke, PhD, environmental planner at Ekologigruppen AB

Maas, J., Verheij, R. A., Groenewegen, P. P., De Vries, S., & Spreeuwenberg, P. (2006). Green space, urbanity, and health: how strong is the relation?. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 60(7), 587-592.

Eisenman, T. S. (2016). Greening Cities in an Urbanizing Age: The Human Health Bases in the Nineteenth and Early Twenty-first Centuries. *Change Over Time*, 6(2), 216-246.

Tuesday February 20th 13.00-16.00 /Deadline response paper: February 20th 12.00

8. Sustainable urban development?

Lecture: Dr. Josefin Wangel, researcher, dept. of Urban & Rural Dev., SLU

- 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.

Thursday February 22nd 13.00-16.00 | *Deadline response paper: February 22nd 12.00*

9. Applying Environmental Psychology Theories in Practice

Lecture: H el ene Littke, PhD, environmental planner at Ekologigruppen AB

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.

Friday March 16th 13.00-16.00 | **Final course meeting.**

HAND-IN FINAL PAPER by March 19th 23.00 at the latest!

Instructions handed out separately.