

PIA2528: URBAN PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Urban Planning and Sustainable Cities

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

2528

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SA2221 Introduction to Urban Planning /SA2528 Urban Planning and Sustainable Cities /POL2528 Urban Planning and Sustainable Cities

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the role, activity and impact of urban planning in modern cities. At the end of the course the students should have: a good understanding of the theories, practices and critiques of planning; knowledge of Asian Cities' planning systems; appreciation of Asian Cities' major urban planning issues; sensitivity to key issues in public interest and recognize the link between the urban morphology and sustainable development.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the theories, practices, and critiques of planning	20	x	x	
2	Recall the main elements of planning system in Asian cities	20		x	
3	Assess the major planning issues in Asian cities	20		x	
4	Demonstrate knowledge of concepts and approaches of planning for the public interests	20		x	x
5	Recognize the link between the urban morphology and sustainability	20		x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)	
1	Lectures	Explanation of key concepts, theories, examples	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	18 hours
2	Case demonstrations, in-class videos, and (virtual) site visits	Two cases to demonstrate links between urban planning and urban sustainability, assisted with (virtual) site visits.	3, 4, 5	12 hours

3	Group project	Identify one urban planning/renovation site and prepare a group project adopting appropriate concepts and approaches to assess policy and practice of planning for the public interest.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6 hours
---	---------------	---	---------------	---------

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Essays of paper reviews	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	35	Two essays to critically review papers from the reading list, based on engagement of theories or empirical discussions.	Yes
2	class participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	Participation in the two case demonstrations and (virtual) site visits, attendance and participation in tutorials	Yes
3	Group project	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	45	Students will be encouraged to site visit (optional); photo essay; web search of government plans and/or policy documents; summary of interviews with concerned parties; critical reflection through appropriate concepts and approaches	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Class Participation

Criterion

Capacity to organize time, communicate effectively, cooperate with classmates

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. essays on paper reviews

Criterion

Capacity to provide a critical view of selected papers, situate the concepts into its historical contexts, compare it with other concepts on the topic, and apply them to empirical cases of Hong Kong (or other Asian cities)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Group project

Criterion

Ability to integrate information from a wide variety of sources, apply planning theories, principles to assess existing policy/ planning in selected Asian cities

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Definition, characteristics and activity of urban planning. Major planning models. Planning and the market. Hong Kong's main planning instruments. Major planning issues in Hong Kong such as: urban redevelopment; meeting land needs; density. Concepts and principles of sustainable development. Built environment and sustainable development.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Alexander, E. R. (2005) What do Planners need to Know? Identifying needed Competencies Methods and Skills, Journal of Architectural and Planning Research, 22:2, pp. 91-106.
2	Marcuse, Peter. 2011. Three Historic Currents of City Planning. In The New Blackwell Companion to the City, edited by Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, pp 643-55
3	Friedmann, John. 2008. The Uses of Planning Theory. Journal of Planning Education and Research, 28 (247-257).

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Levy, J. (2000) Contemporary Urban Planning, Prentice Hall, New Jersey.
2	http://www.hk2030.gov.hk/
3	http://www.ura.org.hk/html/c100000e1e.html
4	S. Campbell & S. S. Fainstein (Eds.), Readings in planning theory (2nd ed.). Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub
5	Fitzpatrick, T. (2011) Understanding the Environment and Social Policy, Policy Press, UK
6	S. Hamnett and D. Forbes, eds., Planning Asian Cities: Risks and Resilience. Routledge.