

Forslag til emnebeskrivelse for HGO4203 våren 2018

Revidert utkast til diskusjon og vedtak i programrådsmøte i samfunnsgeografi 27.10.2017, sak 3 (68/2017).

Course content

This course aims to explore challenges, transformations and policies related to urban sustainability. Particular emphasis is placed on the social, cultural and spatial aspects of these challenges and policies. The course involves the in-depth analysis of traditional and contemporary theories about urban sustainability and policy transformations. The course relates to urbanization and urbanism as a global process, and includes literature, insights and perspectives from different parts of the world, including the global south. The main themes covered by the course are:

1. Urban sustainability challenges (emissions, energy, climate and inequality)
2. Urban structural transformations (urbanization, land use, infrastructures, energy, spaces and flows)
3. Transforming urban practices and cultures (social world views, life styles, practices, institutions and path dependencies)
4. Urban policy transformations (policies, planning and co-creation, global, national and local)

The course offers two (2) study options: an academic option open for students of relevant master's degrees programmes; and an internship-based option, available only for students with admission to the Master's Program in Human Geography.

The internship option involves a minimum of 10 full working days at a designated work place in the Oslo area active in the field of urban sustainability. The internship will serve as a means of linking theories and knowledge on urban transitions and transformations to sustainability with ongoing policies and practice.

Learning outcome

Knowledge goals

You will be able to:

- account for and discuss key concepts and theories related to urban sustainability
- explain the relations between challenges, transformations and policies

Skills attainment goals

You will be able to:

- account for, discuss and critique concepts and theories in a sophisticated manner
- connect these theories, and critiques thereof, to specific cases and concrete settings in the field
- write a research paper relating these theories to, either (i) collected data material (qualitative or quantitative), or (ii) specific tasks, practices and policies within specific organizations/institutions working with urban sustainability.

General competences

You will be able to:

- assess specific situations and challenges involving urban sustainability and sustainable transformations based on theoretically grounded knowledge on this field.
- communicate knowledge-based insights and analysis both verbally and in writing.
- contribute to the new creative and independent thinking about urban sustainability issues.

Admission

This course is part of the Master's program in Human Geography. Students with admission to the master's programme in Human Geography can choose between the academic or the internship option. Students from other relevant master's degree programmes can only apply for admission to the academic option of this course as guest students (sett inn lenke).

Students who are admitted to study programmes at UiO must each semester register which courses and exams they wish to sign up for in Studentweb.

If you are not already enrolled as a student at UiO, please see our information about admission requirements and procedures.

Internship option (for Human Geography only)

- Internship is dependent on admission to the master's programme in Human Geography.
- Host institutions, work assignments and the number of available internships may vary from semester to semester. The number of placements available for the course might vary accordingly. In case of too many applications per place, some applicants may have to choose the academic option, without internship.
- The 10 days of internship have to be scheduled throughout the semester in agreement with the host institutions.
- Applicants cannot be employed by the host institution in advance of the internship.

How to apply for the internship option?

- The opening date for applications is December 1st. You must fill out this application form (lenke til nettskjema).
- Due to the limited number of places, applications will be processed in accordance to the principle of 'first come, first served'. The application form will be closed when the available places are filled up. The final closing date for applications is December 8.
- You will receive an answer on your application within December 15, and must accept the offer within one week.
- If you do not reply nor decline, the offer will go to the next applicant in line.
- New offers will be sent out after the deadline until all available places have been assigned.

Prerequisites

Recommended previous knowledge

This course builds on SOSGEO2301 - Environment and society, SGO2100 - Bygeografi og urbanisme and SGO3500 – Byers struktur og utvikling at the bachelor level in human geography. However, sitting examinations in these courses it is not a prerequisite for taking this course.

Overlapping courses

None

Teaching

Teaching in this course is seminar-based. It also includes an internship for HGO-students.

Compulsory instruction and coursework

Participation in the seminars is compulsory. Students must attend at least 80% of the seminars.

The internship option includes a minimum of 10 full working days at a designated work place

Completed and approved compulsory course work is valid as long as the course is offered. Students who have failed to complete the compulsory attendance cannot take the exam.

Absence from compulsory tuition activities

If you are ill or have another valid reason for being absent from compulsory tuition activities, your absence may be approved or the compulsory activity may be postponed.

- Report absence from or the need for a postponed deadline on a compulsory tuition activity

Examination

The exam for HGO4302 is a research paper addressing a research question related to two of the four themes of the course. The course coordinator will assess and approve the research question and empirical basis for the paper. The empirical basis for the paper will be (i) collected data or information for the academic option, or (ii) experience and information gathered during internship for the internship option.

The length of the research paper is 14-15 pages for the academic option and 10-11 pages for the internship option (plus notes and references) using 12 point letter size and a spacing of lines 1 ½.

Use of sources and citation

You should familiarize yourself with the rules that apply to the use of sources and citations. If you violate the rules, you may be suspected of cheating/attempted cheating.

Language of examination

You may submit your response in English, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish.

Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a scale from A to F, where A is the best grade and F is a fail. Read more about the grading system.

Explanations and appeals

It is recommended to request an explanation of your grade before you decide to appeal.

Appeal

- Appeal against grades
- Complaint about formal exam errors

Explanation

The deadline to request an explanation is one week after the grade is published. For oral and practical examinations, the deadline is immediately after you have received your grade.

The explanation should normally be given within two weeks after you have asked for it. The examiner decides whether the explanation is to be given in writing or verbally.

Ask for explanation of your grade in this course:

- Research paper

Resit an examination

If you are sick or have another valid reason for not attending the regular exam, we offer a postponed exam later in the same semester.

See also our information about resitting an exam.

Withdrawal from an examination

If you wish to withdraw from the exam you must do so in Studentweb at least two weeks prior to the deadline. Failure to do so will be counted as an examination attempt.

Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for special examination arrangements.

Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students to participate in a more comprehensive evaluation.