

HGO4201 – Urban geographical theory

Course content

This is an advanced course in urban geographical theory. The aim is to explore urban theory through thematic excursions in the literature and in diverse field settings. An additional aim is to provide preparatory training for thesis writing.

The course involves the in-depth analysis of recent and contemporary theories within urban social geography. The following main themes are covered by the course syllabus:

1. Urbanization and counter-trends
2. Contemporary urbanism
3. Comparative urbanism
4. Divided cities, urban geopolitics and the challenge of social media
5. Segregation, neighbourhood effects and spaces of encounter

Learning outcome

Knowledge goals

You will be able to:

- account for and discuss key concepts and theories in contemporary urban social geography.
- explain the correlation between economic and societal development and various kinds of urban differentiation processes and patterns
- explain and provide examples of how different processes take shape at different geographical levels (from global to local conditions).

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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 concrete settings in the field
- write a theoretically informed paper, using empirical examples, within a stated time limit. Your written work must demonstrate a thorough understanding of correlations, show a high level of precision, and be characterized by independent critical thinking.

Effective goals

- The course will promote a theoretically grounded understanding of past and contemporary urban development.

Admission

Admission to the course is dependent on admission to the master's degree programme in human geography. Students with admission to other relevant master's degree programmes can apply for admission as guest students.

Students with admission to the programme must each semester register which courses and examinations they wish to sign up for in StudentWeb.

Prerequisites*Recommended previous knowledge*

This course builds on *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

The course replaces parts of *SGO4012 - Bygeografi* (discontinued) and *SGO312*, both of which are courses previously offered by the Department of Sociology and Human Geography.

Teaching

This course will be taught at the University of Oslo, Blindern campus. Other locations in Oslo may be used. Teaching includes lectures, seminars, and student-led mini-fieldtrips in Oslo. Participation in at least 80% of the seminars and 75% of the fieldtrips is mandatory to gain access to the examination.

Examination

The course is examined with a course paper (approx. 5000 words, excluding references), which is expected to build on (i) the course's mandatory readings and (ii) a self-chosen reading list of 15-20 articles related to the chosen theme for the course paper. The list of individually chosen articles must be enclosed to and/or highlighted in the paper's list of references.

Examination support material

Students are free to make use of whatever support material they like while writing their course papers.

Language of examination

The course paper description (examination) text is given in English. The term paper may be written in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

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.

Re-sit 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 re-sitting 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 one of the three opportunities to sit the exam.

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.