

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~~ connection 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).

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.

Generally speaking, participation in at least 80% of the seminars and 75% of the fieldtrips is mandatory to gain access to the examination. However, due to the uncertainties surrounding the ongoing coronavirus crisis, presence at the seminars will not be mandatory during Fall 2021. It is nevertheless very strongly recommended.

Examination

The course is examined with a course paper (approx. 5000 words, *excluding* references), which is expected to build on the course's mandatory readings. In addition to the specified literature, the mandatory reading list includes approximately 15-20 individually chosen articles related to the chosen theme for the course paper.

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

The term paper *should preferably be written in English, but texts submitted in Norwegian, Swedish or Danish will also be accepted.*

Commented [MG1]: The course is in English. If papers can be accepted in other languages, then why not French and Italian too?

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 [of your request](#).

Re-sit an examination

If you [have fallen ill](#) 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.

SGO4201 - Pensum/læringskrav

* = pensum i kompendium

@ = pensum tilgjengelig online

Slik finner du en artikkel fra pensumlisten

URBANIZATION AND COUNTER-TRENDS

*Phelps, N. A., & Wu, F. (2011). Introduction: International Perspectives on Suburbanization: A Post-suburban World?. In N. Phelps and F. Wu (eds.), *International Perspectives on Suburbanization* (pp. 1-11). Palgrave Macmillan UK.

@Martinez-Fernandez, C., I. Audirac, S. Fol and E. Cunningham-Sabot (2012), Shrinking Cities: Urban Challenges of Globalization, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36 (2): 213-225.

@Harris, R. (2015). Using Toronto to explore three suburban stereotypes, and vice versa. *Environment and Planning A*, 47(1), 30-49.

@Butler, T. (2007). Re-urbanizing London Docklands: Gentrification, Suburbanization or New Urbanism?. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 31(4), 759-781.

@Filion, P. (2015). Suburban inertia: the entrenchment of dispersed suburbanism. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 39(3), 633-640.

@Shen, J. & F. Wu. (2012). The development of master-planned communities in Chinese suburbs: A case study of Shanghai's Thames Town. *Urban Geography*, 33(2), 183-203.

@Boudreau, Julie-Anne & Danielle Labbe. (2011). Understanding the causes of urban fragmentation in Hanoi: The case of New Urban Zones. *International Development Planning Review*, 33(3), 273-291.

@Keil, R. (2018). Extended urbanization, "disjunct fragments" and global suburbanisms. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 36(3), 494-511.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775817749594>

Mercer, C. (2017). Landscapes of extended ruralisation: postcolonial suburbs in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 42(1), 72-83.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12150>

Tzaninis, Y. and Boterman, W. (2017). Beyond the urban-suburban dichotomy. Shifting mobilities and the transformation of suburbia. *City*, 22(1), 43-62.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13604813.2018.1432143>

Todes, A. (2014). New African Suburbanisation? Exploring the Growth of the Northern Corridor of eThekweni/KwaDukuza. *African Studies* 73 (2): 245-270.

CONTEMPORARY URBANISM

*Amin, A. (2003). 'The Economic Base of Contemporary Cities'. In G. Bridge and S. Watson (eds.), *A Companion to the City* (Oxford (UK) and Malden (MA): Blackwell), 115-129.

@Anderson, B. and C. McFarlane (2011), Assemblage and geography, *Area* 43 (2): 124-127.

@Davidson, M. (2007), Gentrification as a global habitat: a process of class formation or corporate creation? *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 32 (4): 490-506.

@Dear, M. & Flusty, S. (1998): "Postmodern urbanism." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 88, nr. 1, s. 50-72. 23 sider.

@Storper, M. and M. Manville (2006), Behaviour, preferences and cities: urban theory and urban resurgence, *Urban Studies* 43 (8): 1247-1274.

@Raco, M. (2018). Critical urban cosmopolitanism and the governance of urban diversity in European cities. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 25(1), 8-23.

@Phelps, N. A. (2021). Which City? Grounding Contemporary Urban Theory. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 08854122211002758.

Recommended additional reading for “contemporary urbanism” block:

@Scott, A. and M. Storper (2015), The nature of cities; The scope and limits of urban theory, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39 (1): 1-15.

DIVIDED CITIES, URBAN GEOPOLITICS AND THE CHALLENGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

@Allegra, M., A. Casaglia, och J. Rokem (2012), The political geographies of urban polarization: A critical review of research on divided cities, *Geography Compass* 6(9): 560-574.

@Bakir, V. and A. McStay (2018), Fake news and the economy of emotions, *Digital Journalism* 6(2): 154-175.

@Bennett, W.L. and S. Livingston (2018), The disinformation order: disruptive communication and the decline of online institutions. *European Journal of Communication* 33(2): 122-139.

@Bollens, S. (2013), Bounding cities as a means of managing conflict: Sarajevo, Beirut and Jerusalem, *Peacebuilding* 1 (2): 186-206.

@Forest, B., Johnson, J., & Till, K. (2004). Post-totalitarian national identity: public memory in Germany and Russia. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 5(3), 357-380.

@Gentile, M. (2019), Geopolitical fault-line cities in the world of divided cities, *Political Geography* 71 (May): 126-138

@Gentile, M. (2020). Diabolical Suggestions: Disinformation and the Curious Scale of Nationalism in Ukrainian Geopolitical Fault-line Cities. *Geopolitics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2020.1830766>

@Hodge, E., & Hallgrimsdottir, H. (2019). Networks of Hate: The Alt-right, “Troll Culture”, and the Cultural Geography of Social Movement Spaces Online. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, online first.

@Rokem, J., Fregonese, S., Ramadan, A., Pascucci, E., Rosen, G., Charney, I., Paasche, T. and Sidaway, J. (2017), Interventions in urban geopolitics, *Political Geography* 61(November): 253-262.

COMPARATIVE URBANISM

@Dear, M. (2005), Comparative urbanism, *Urban Geography* 26 (3): 247-251.

@Lees, L. (2012). The geography of gentrification: Thinking through comparative urbanism. *Progress in Human Geography*, 36(2), 155-171.

*Müller, Martin (2021). Footnote urbanism: the missing East in (not so) global urbanism. In: Lancione M and McFarlane C (eds), *Global Urbanism: Knowledge, Power and the City*. (Abingdon, UK: Routledge).

@Nijman, J. (2015), The theoretical imperative of comparative urbanism: a commentary on ‘Cities beyond compare’ by Jamie Peck, *Regional Studies* 49 (1): 183-186.

@Peck, J. (2015), Cities beyond compare? *Regional Studies* 49 (1): 160-182.

@Robinson, J. (2005), Urban geography: world cities, or a world of cities, *Progress in Human Geography* 29 (6): 757-765.

*Robinson, J. (2021). COMPARATIVE URBANISM AND GLOBAL URBAN STUDIES. In M. Lancione and C. McFarlane (eds.), *Global Urbanism: Knowledge, Power and the City* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge).

@Roy, A. (2011). Slumdog cities: rethinking subaltern urbanism. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(2), 223-238.

@Schindler, S. (2014). Understanding urban processes in Flint, Michigan: Approaching 'subaltern urbanism' inductively. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(3), 791-804.

@Wood, A. (2020). Tracing urbanism: methods of actually doing comparative studies in Johannesburg. *Urban Geography*, 41(2), 293-311.

Recommended additional reading for "comparative urbanism" block:

@Robinson, J. (2011), Cities in a world of cities: The comparative gesture, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35 (1): 1-23.

SEGREGATION, NEIGHBOURHOOD EFFECTS AND SPACES OF ENCOUNTER

@Brattbakk, I. and Wessel, T. (2011 2013) "Long-term neighbourhood effects on education, income and employment among adolescents in Oslo". *Urban Studies* 50: 381-406.

*Castaneda, E. (2012) "Places of Stigma: Ghettos, Barrios, and Banlieus". I Hutchinson, R. and Haynes, B.D. (red.) *The Ghetto. Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies*. Westview, Phil. PA, pp. 159-190.

@Fainstein, S. (2005), Cities and diversity – Should we want it? Can we plan for it?, *Urban Affairs Review* 41 (1): 3-19.

*Galster, G. (2012) "Neighbourhoods and Their Role in Creating and Changing Housing". I Clapham, D. F., Clark, W.A.V. and Gibb, K. (red.) *The Sage Handbook of Housing Studies*. Sage Publications, London, side 84-106.

@Galster, G. (2012) *The Mechanisms of Neighborhood Effects. Theory, Evidence and Policy Implications*. In Van Ham, M., Manley, D., Bailey, N., Simpson, L. and Maclennan, D.: (2013) *Neighbourhood Effects Research. New Perspectives*. Springer, side 25-36. 12 sider.

@Galster, G. and Sharkey, P. (2017) Spatial foundations of inequality. A conceptual model and empirical overview. *RSF: TH Russel Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 3(2), side 1-33.

@ Mayblin, L., Valentine, G. and Andersson, J. (2016) In the contact zone: engineering meaningful encounters across difference through an interfaith project. *The Geographical Journal* 182(2), 213-222.

@Piekout, A. and Valentine, G. (2017) Spaces of encounter and attitudes towards difference: a comparative study of two European cities. *Social Science Research* 62(2), 175-188.

Sharkey, P. and Faber, J.W. (2014) Where, when, why and for whom do neighborhood effects matter? *Annual Review of Sociology* 40, 559-579.

@Tammaru, T., Marciczak, S., Auanp, R., van Ham, M. and Jansson, H. (2020) Relationship between income inequality and residential segregation of socioeconomic groups. *Regional Studies* 54(4), 450-461.

*Wacquant, L. (2008), ch. 5 "From Conflation to Comparison: How Banlieus and Ghettos Converge and Contrast" I *Urban Outcasts*. Polity Press: Cambridge side 135-162.

@Wessel, T. (2009). Does diversity in urban space enhance intergroup contact and tolerance?. *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 91(1), 5-17.

*Atkinson, R., Buck, N. and Kintrea, K. (2005) "Neighbourhoods and poverty: linking place and social exclusion". I Buck, N., Gordon, I, Harding, A. og Turok, I. (red.) *Changing Cities*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 18 pages.

@Galster, G. and A. Santiago (2017), Neighbourhood ethnic composition and outcomes for low-income Latino and African American children, *Urban Studies* 54(2): 482-500.

Recommended additional reading for the "segregation, neighbourhood effects and spaces of encounter" block

Park, R.E. and E.W. Burgess (1925), *The City – Suggestions for Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment*, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press), chapters I-IX (160 pages).

Total: about 700 pages of mandatory specified literature. You are also expected to read *at least* about 15-20 more articles (ca 300 pages) of your choice in connection with course paper work.

Total including course paper-related literature: at least 1000 pages.

Commented [MG3]: I det här blocket behövs några yngre artiklar, Terje, har du några önskemål?