

MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN(MUrbanDesign)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUDP1010 Introduction to Urban Development and Planning (6 credits)

This course examines the framework of urban development and urban planning within which urban design is undertaken and implemented. Topics covered include urban development process, urban spatial structure, and nature and function of urban planning both in Hong Kong and internationally.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDP1020 Urban Design Technologies & Innovations (6 credits)

The course focuses on technologies-related tools and techniques in professional urban design practice, and urban design research that enables designers to fully exploit technologies and techniques for urban physical environment appraisal, research for and about urban design, urban development design and communication at small and medium spatial scales. It also includes insights of innovations and techniques in urban design.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDP1030 Morphologies & Urban Design Theories (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to the three natures of urban morphology: natural, built environment, institutional configurations and urban design theories. Introduction to urban morphologies will examine key concepts, the study of the formation of urban fabric, the relationship of these components through time and at different spatial scales in local and international contexts. Urban design theories describe the state of the art of research about the relationship between urban morphology and human effects and other impacts referenced to the key historical urban design thinkers.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDP1001 Hong Kong Urban Design Studio (12 credits)

The urban design studio is the core component of the Master of Urban Design curriculum. In the Hong Kong Studio, students learn to acquire basic urban design skills through a series of project-based exercises that (1) introduce the students to a fundamental vocabulary for examining physical high intensity vertical multi-level urban form; (2) develop students' ability to identify and analyse urban design issues and problems through design iterations (Options stage and preferred option); (3) initiate the students on fundamental skills to develop urban design scheme in 2D-3D form and delivery challenges over time. The studio includes mandatory design review of option and preferred option. This studio is conducted over one semester.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDP2010 Research Methods for Urban Design (6 credits)

The course introduces research design and research methodology and their limitations appropriate for urban design. Topics include: research paradigms, the emergence of design research, formulation of research questions; range of research methods and resources needs; choices of research methods and limitations; formulation of research proposals; use of digital techniques in urban design research.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDP2020 Values of Urban Design: Urban, Social, Environmental Economics (6 credits)

Urban design and real estate engage the complex mechanisms of environmental and social capital in relation to finance and economics, by seeing design and built environment investment as intrinsically associated with economics and values. The course is an introduction to the issues arising of these associations: what roles urban economics play in urban design? From regional and spatial economics to spatial initiatives and governance to approaches to values in urban design. Conversely how urban design visioning can have impacts on economics, financial investment and values, including added environmental, social, cultural and aesthetic values?

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDP1002 International Urban Design Studio (12 credits)

The International Urban design studio normally consists of urban design projects with a larger scale and complexity than the fall studio. The location is related to engaging with various level high intensity horizontal urban form. The aims are to: (1) engage with the challenge of international urban design values set that are distant from one own; (2) enhance and further develop the students' analytical and design ability for handling real-life urban development, renewal and/or re-development projects;

(3) prepare the students for conducting more advanced studies leading to large, comprehensive urban design schemes through design iterations (options stage and preferred option); (4) to develop urban design scheme in 2D-3D urban form and delivery challenges over time. The studio includes mandatory design review of options and preferred option. The Studio includes an International Field Visit. This studio is conducted over one semester.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

ARCH6067 Location and Transport in Urban Design (6 credits)

This course will focus upon the key determining factors that create the reciprocal relationship between land use, population and building densities and transport. Candidates will be introduced to methods of evaluation of urban morphology. Case studies with particular reference to Hong Kong will be presented.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

ARCH6072 Special Topics in Urban Design (6 credits)

This course offers a closer examination of selected urban design issues in history and in contemporary time. Topics covered include, urban design concepts and models in history and their applications, contemporary city building issues, and, future urban forms. Illustrated lectures will be combined with seminars/ workshops to enable in-depth study of urban design topics in context.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MHCD7001 Design, Survey and Modelling for Urban Health (6 credits)

This is a methodology course aimed at assessing key attributes of urban environments for population health improvement. The course will introduce concepts of: 1) study design (descriptive and analytical [observational study and experimental study]); 2) study populations (sample size calculation, data collection/sampling approaches); 3) exposure assessment (survey and management of urban environments: air pollution, water, wastes etc.); 4) outcome assessment (physical and mental health, economics, policy etc.); 5) describe and analyse evidence (disease mapping, spatial analysis models, and health effects assessment of environmental exposures). Students will be also encouraged to form groups to appraise and interpret existing evidence of the links between urban exposures, behaviour and health outcomes.

Assessed through examination (0% - 70%) and/or coursework assessment (30% - 100%)

MHCD7002 Principles of Healthy Cities (6 credits)

This is a theoretical course focusing on fundamental concepts, theories and models on a wide range of emerging urban health issues at local, regional and global scales. The aim is to employ systems thinking to elucidate the intrinsic multifactorial interactions between urban space and human behaviour and lifestyle resulting in the socio-spatial production of health. Urban planning, design and policy aspects at building-, neighbourhood- and city-levels promoting active-living, salutogenicity, social cohesion and racial inclusivity, age-friendliness, climate change-resilience, pandemic-resilience and longevityreadiness, and their role in population health and wellbeing will be discussed.

Assessed through examination (0% - 70%) and/or coursework assessment (30% - 100%)

MHCD7003 Health Impact Assessment of Urban Development Projects (6 credits)

Urbanisation is one of the leading global trends of the 21st century. It has been found that urban development is closely associated with significant human health in both direct and indirect way. This course will introduce Health Impact Assessment as a tool to internalize evidence in our decision-making process with focus on health externalities. The process of full-chain health impact assessment including exposure assessment, health risk assessment and economic evaluation of various aspects of urban design and urban and transport development projects will be elucidated.

Assessed through examination (0% - 70%) and/or coursework assessment (30% - 100%)

MHMP8013 Smart and Sustainable Cities (6 credits)

This course examines the rise of smart and sustainable cities, as mobilized by a range of governance actors from the urban to global scale, including their origins, construction and management. It explores the underlying motivation for these specific urban models - often grounded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - their potential, but also their more problematic aspects. The course will introduce key theories that have been used to understand smart and sustainable cities, and relevant planning and governance issues. Learning activities will involve case studies, debates, and field research intended to enhance student engagement.

Assessed through examination (0% - 70%) and/or coursework assessment (30% - 100%)

MUDP7001 Municipal Finance for Urban Practitioners in Belt and Road Regions (6 credits)

This course will cover fundamental concepts in urban public finance, including municipal budgets, transfers, land-based financing, own-source revenues, and municipal debt. The course also allows students to grasp insights and knowledge pertinent to urban planning, design and development along the Belt-and-Road regions. It will equip students with the skills to find relevant quantitative and qualitative data and to conduct basic municipal budget analysis. The goal is to ensure that students working in urban environments, regardless of their background, can understand and apply these concepts to identify emerging trends and apply them locally to cities.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP7006 GIS and Smart Technology in Spatial Planning (6 credits)

This course introduces the basic concepts, methods and techniques in the use of geographic information system (GIS) and smart technologies as a spatial planning support system in urban planning and smart cities development. It examines the challenges and opportunities of using emerging urban data for the development of smart cities and regions through urban analytical methods such as GIS, remote sensing, big data, and open data.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6131 Transport Policy and Planning (6 credits)

This course focuses on key issues in transport policy and the implementation of transport plans and programmes. It examines the role of private and public modes within the overall urban transport system as well as pedestrian movement planning, airport development and seaport development. The course uses examples drawn from various countries to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of alternative policies and implementation mechanisms.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6157 Transport Economics (6 credits)

This course helps to develop a specialist appreciation of the economics of urban transport provision. It highlights the economic principles and techniques employed in planning, operating and managing our city transport systems and concentrates on topics such as: travel time valuation, road congestion costing and pricing, public transport finance and cost-recovery, and economic appraisal techniques employed therein.

Assessment: 40%-60% continuous coursework assessment and 40%-60% examination

URBP6904 Housing, Planning and Sustainability (6 credits)

This course aims to provide an integrative and in-depth understanding of Hong Kong's housing system and its relationships with urban planning and the concepts of sustainable development. It discusses the theoretical and practical aspects of housing, making special reference to their relationships with urban planning and sustainable development. Major topics include the housing system concepts, the political economy of housing policies, land use planning and housing affordability, principals of residential planning, housing policy analyses, housing market analyses, and the application of the sustainable development perspective to housing analyses.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6905 Globalization and Urban and Regional Development in China (6 credits)

This course examines the processes of globalization and studies its implications for urban and regional development in China. It studies the general concepts of urban development and the historical legacy constraining the urban development in China. With China's accession to WTO membership, special emphasis is placed on the interactions between the transnational corporations (TNCs) and the different level of the state and local governments. Regional dynamics will be examined in the context of global competitiveness.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6906 Urban Planning and Practice in China (6 credits)

The course will first review the history of urban planning practice in the People's Republic of China. The relationship between economic and urban planning, the evolution of the planning legislation and the practice of planning at different geographical scales will be discussed. The course will then focus on planning practice in the Pearl River Delta region and its major cities where the transitional economy is evolving rapidly. Issues surrounding the institutionalisation of planning regulations, systems, and hierarchy; the formulation and implementation of plans; and problems of development control will be examined.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6123 Public Transport Systems (6 credits)

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems mainly in the urban context with special reference to high density development. Topics include the nature and the characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems, deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6902 Urban Design and Place Making (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the theories, principles, processes, methods and practice of urban design and place making. Through literature reviews and case studies students begin to clearly understand the importance of policy, planning, design, and management in place making. Students comprehend the value of common visions, cultural diversity, and community aspirations in the process of design in the creation of high-quality places to live, work and play. Students undertake site specific place making design projects at the development and public realm context. Students are challenged to generate visionary, imaginative and realistic responses through investigation, analysis to make informed design decisions and creative recommendations.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment
