

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING – URBAN PLANNING STREAM

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

URBP6911 Foundation Course on Statistics and Quantitative Methods (6 credits)

This is a general foundation course on statistics, quantitative methods and computer techniques that are commonly used in urban analysis and planning. It introduces students to the fundamentals of descriptive, inferential and multivariate statistical techniques and quantitative methods. The aim is to develop students a basic level of competence and ability in using them in urban analysis and planning.

Assessment: 30-100% continuous coursework assessment and 0-70% examination

URBP6002 Urban Development Theories (6 credits)

This course reviews the theoretical frameworks for the understanding of urban development processes. It analyses the economic, spatial and socio-political dimensions of urban activities. The dynamics of urbanisation in the global production system, the relations between capital accumulation and urban development, place marketing and the rise of the creative cities will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6003 Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)

This course provides a detailed understanding of professional planning practice in Hong Kong. It deals with the practical dimensions of planning in both the public and private sectors. The course reviews the history, policies, strategies, administrative and legal procedures of planning. It also examines issues surrounding the ethical basis of professional planning activity.

Assessment: 60%-70% continuous coursework assessment and 30%-40% examination

URBP7003 Research Methods in Spatial Planning (6 credits)

This course introduces basic research methods and techniques in urban and regional spatial planning. It will examine research design methods, data collection, and the use of statistical as well as qualitative techniques in data analysis. It will also examine analytical models and evaluation and management methods that are commonly used in spatial planning and research.

Assessment: 30%-40% continuous coursework assessment and 60%-70% examination

URBP6006 Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process (6 credits)

Planning in a development process needs to take into account a variety of spatial, sectoral, resources management and financial factors. This course examines the interactions of these factors in development processes initiated by the public sector, the private developers or through various modes of public-private partnership. The intersectoral and spatial implications of the development processes will be explored through case studies of planning at different geographical scales in the context of Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP7005 Planning Future Cities and Regions (6 credits)

In this course, class participants explore prevalent and emerging challenges cities and regions confront in pursuing sustainable development and discuss potential planning and policy solutions to such challenges. In detail, the course covers three main topics: key concepts/theories of sustainable development and global megatrends, such as slow growth, ageing, inequality, and climate change; available planning and policy tools for sustainable development—and in response to the megatrends—and related performance/impact assessment systems; and contemporary practice in both local and international contexts.

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

URBP8002 International Planning Policy and Practice (6 credits)

This course examines different planning systems across the world and the ideologies and values behind the planning processes and approaches. Understanding the key approaches to urban planning in different countries and regions of different governance regimes is important in developing an appreciation of how different ideologies and political economies give rise to different planning policies and practices to shape the urban landscapes of various localities within their own contexts. The course takes a comparative approach to understand and evaluate planning policy and practice and the planning outcomes across a spectrum of international case studies, and attempts to explain their differences and similarities by probing into the dynamics between government intervention and market freedom, diversity in development certainty vis-à-vis land use controls and planning governance modes.

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 privatisation, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP6903 Quantitative Methods for Transport Planning (6 credits)

This course focuses on the transport planning process and examines the following: traffic generation forecasts; spatial patterns of traffic; modal split models; traffic assignment methods; transport evaluation; network and local planning; traffic engineering considerations and basic transport economics.

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

MHMP6858 Housing Economics (6 credits)

This course provides a basic introduction to economics and the application of economic concepts in the analysis of housing issues. The course also deals with the principles of cost-benefit analysis and economic evaluation in general in the housing context. Other topics covered include land policy and economics, cycles in housing activity, the financing of housing development and privatisation. The course also introduces the functions, principles and methods of valuation.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

MHMP7007 International Housing Policies and Practices (6 credits)

This course aims to compare housing policies and practices at an international scale and to explore global housing issues. It examines and compares the evolution of housing policies in different housing systems, the modes of intervention in the housing markets, the roles of the public and private sectors in housing provision, housing finance systems, and the relationships between housing standards and societal conditions. Prevailing global trends and issues in housing are also examined.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

MHMP8008 Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development (6 credits)

Building upon comparative concepts and introductory materials of local knowledge, this course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore contemporary urban changes both in the countries that are undergoing the transition from the planned to a market-oriented economy and in newly industrialised economies. The course has a regional focus on cities in Pacific Asia, in particular Chinese cities, and cities in Central and Eastern Europe. By the end of the course, students should be able to gain an empirical understanding of diverse local contexts and to broaden the concepts discussed in urban and housing studies.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% 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: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

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Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

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

This course examines the processes of globalisation 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

URBP8003 Land and Real Estate Markets: Smart Governance, Finance and Business Models (6 credits)

This course provides a land and real estate development perspective on urban development. Cities face continuous processes of both expansion and transformation. Population growth and economic growth lead to expansion, while processes of obsolescence and decline lead to a demand for urban transformation projects. These processes usually require investments in land and property (re)development, while planning interventions provide guidelines to investors, sometimes as opportunities, but also as barriers to what an investor might see as a profitable investment. The interaction between planning interventions on the one hand and land and real estate investments on the other hand is the central theme of this course. Starting from that interaction the course pays attention to different planning approaches and their impact on land and real estate markets, the dynamics of land and real estate markets, investment behaviour by private and public developers, public-private partnerships, land management strategies and value capturing mechanisms and smart land and real estate investment strategies.

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

URBP6907 Special Study in Urban Planning (6 credits)

Detailed study or studies on a topic or topics in contemporary urban and regional planning approved by the Head of the Department.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP7011 International Bay Areas Advanced Studies (6 credits)

This is a course combining lectures and a field trip of international bay areas. We will discuss the urban and regional development of international bay areas around the world. An international field trip will be arranged to bay areas, such as Tokyo Bay Area, San Francisco Bay Area, Greater Bay Area.

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 computers in urban design research.

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 and 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

MUDP2020 Values of Urban Design: Urban, Social, Environmental Economic (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

CONS8103 Charters and Legislation of Conservation (6 credits)

This course introduces the guiding principles and legal framework for heritage conservation. Through lectures and case studies, students become familiar with the doctrines and terminologies of international charters and regional legislation and examine and assess their relevance and application in the contexts of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Students learn how policies and legislation may support, assist and constrain the conservation of heritage and to critique the laws and their enforcement. The course also introduces the professional responsibilities and duties embedded in legal and policy frameworks and discusses ethical standards and codes of conduct related to cultural heritage management.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8109 Cultural Landscapes (6 credits)

This course introduces the concept of cultural landscapes and its relevance to heritage conservation. The course examines cultural landscapes as defined in multiple disciplines such as cultural geography, environmental history, and landscape archaeology, as well as its practical implications within international heritage frameworks. Students learn to identify and assess different types of cultural landscapes and explore new ways of mapping landscape sites within the contexts of Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. The course also enables students to address concerns for the protection of the natural environment and conceive strategies for achieving sustainable development through the conservation of cultural landscapes.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS8120 Built Heritage and Its Significance (6 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theories and practices of built heritage conservation. Students learn about the histories of the conservation movement in the local and global contexts and become familiar with terminologies and key concepts, such as conservation, restoration, historicity, authenticity, integrity, world heritage, shared heritage, intangible heritage, adaptive reuse, etc. Attention is paid to cross-cultural comparisons of different types and scales of built heritage and their associated social, cultural and economic values, with a particular focus on Hong Kong, Greater China and East and Southeast Asia. Case studies are used to illustrate the processes of understanding tangible and intangible values of heritage buildings, sites and landscapes, the relationship between natural and cultural heritage, as well as the growing importance of community engagement and heritage stewardship. Students are required to prepare a Statement of Significance as part of a conservation plan using a values-based assessment approach.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

RECO6032 Law and Practice of Arbitration (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction to alternative dispute resolution and examines the process of arbitration in Hong Kong and China through: common law and statute; procedure and proof; domestic and international arbitrations; arbitration institutions; the role of expert witnesses; application in the real estate and construction industry. This course examines the process of arbitration in Hong Kong and China: common law and statute; procedure and proof; the role of expert witnesses; domestic and international arbitrations; arbitration institutions; application in the real estate and construction industry.

Assessment: 100% examination

RECO7091 Construction Claims (6 credits)

This course provides an introduction of the law relating to construction claims in the following aspects: Types of claims: contractual claims, extra contractual claims, ex-gratia claims and quantum meruit claims; Principles and assessment of claims: acceleration and prolongation, loss and expense, common law damages, delay and extension of time, program analysis, burden and standard of proof, procedural requirements, common heads of claim.

Assessment: 50% continuous coursework assessment and 50% examination

RECO7097 Modern Developments in Construction (6 credits)

This course explores modern developments in construction from institutional, strategic, commercial and technological perspectives. This includes the effects of globalisation, evolving competitive strategies, procurement innovation, and industrialisation of construction, as well as theoretical developments and new technologies and approaches in construction project management and their applications in contemporary construction practice. A particular focus is given to the changes in practice enabled by state-of-the-art digital and smart technologies.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBP8004 Urban Big Data Analytics (6 credits)

This course further develops students' knowledge and skills in handling, analysing and modelling urban data, especially big data. Students will learn conceptual frameworks for analysing and modelling urban issues, methodologies and software tools for processing and modelling urban data; as well as applying urban models and analytics to empirical cases. The aim of this course is to equip students with advanced urban modelling and analytics to explain current urban conditions and predict future urban changes beyond the smart era.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Prerequisite: URBP8006 Programming and Foundations in Urban Data Analysis

URBP8005 Spatial Mobilities Analytics (6 credits)

This course discusses how space, society (institutions) and accessibility are related and how accessibility should be defined, analysed and designed/improved in light of the existing, possible or proposed spatial arrangements of socially valued goods, services and opportunities, which are embedded in, and shaped by social norms, values and institutions. It argues that complex relationships exist between space, society and accessibility, which should be accounted for in related policy/planning interventions. Students will learn to understand, analyse, manage and harmonise such relationships to deliver desirable outcomes such as efficiency, equity, quality of life and sustainability.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Prerequisite: URBP8006 Programming and Foundations in Urban Data Analysis

URBP8006 Programming and Foundations in Urban Data Analysis (6 credits)

Spatial data has become indispensable for building a smart city, particularly in city planning, design and management. This involves new means of capturing spatial data by different types of sensors, advanced application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and rapid development of spatial analytics in the area of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Building Information Modelling (BIM). The main objective of this course is to equip students from relevant disciplines (e.g. land use planning, surveying, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, environmental science and social sciences) with foundational knowledge and programming techniques on spatial data analysis.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

MUDT5010 Transport Network Analysis and Modelling (6 credits)

This course introduces a variety of advanced analytical methods for analyzing and modelling urban transportation systems, stressing a qualitative understanding and the applications of these methods in urban transport design. The primary methods introduced will include complex networks, machine learning, and simulation-based methods. Throughout the course, we will focus on the applications of these methods to the design of transport systems, with an eye towards how these designs can facilitate urban vitality, sustainability, accessibility, and various factors of well-being (for example resilience, disease spread, social integration, and equity).

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.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

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 longevity-readiness, and their role in population health and wellbeing will be discussed.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

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.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

MHMP8012 Key Issues in Ageing Communities (6 credits)

This course examines key trends in ageing cities and introduces key ageing-related concepts, such as healthy ageing and age-friendly communities. It discusses the influence of the built environment and social environment on the physical and mental health of older adults, including the role of housing, transport and opportunities for social interactions. The course also draws attention to social inequalities in later life. Other topics include ageism, smart technologies and the digital divide.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination

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.

Assessment: 30% - 100% continuous coursework assessment and/or 0% - 70% examination
