

MASTER OF URBAN STUDIES AND HOUSING MANAGEMENT (MUS&HM)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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 and in the housing context. Other topics covered include land policy and economics, cycles in housing activity, the financing of housing development and privatization. The course also introduces the functions, principles and methods of valuation.

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.

MHMP8002 Foundation Course on Research Methods (3 credits)

This course aims to prepare students for the dissertation by briefing them the research process, especially the identification of research problems and the formulation of research design and data collection methods. It also provides them a foundation in basic statistical analysis including issues in problem formulation, measurement and sampling, descriptive statistics, and basic inferential statistics.

MHMP8006 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

MHMP8015 Advanced Urban and Housing Practices (6 credits)

This course enables students to explore housing and urban renewal projects through intensive, real-world learning experiences during the reading week. Through site visits to international projects, students will examine the underlying drivers, implementation processes, and outcomes of contemporary urban and housing governance initiatives. Students will engage directly with local stakeholders to gain in-depth understanding of the political, economic, and social factors shaping these projects. This experiential learning approach allows students to analyse real-world governance challenges and evaluate the effectiveness of different policy interventions in diverse urban contexts.

MHMP8016 Housing Studies Workshop: Urban-Rural Frontiers (6 credits)

This course explores cutting-edge issues in housing studies across the urban-rural continuum, examining contemporary challenges and emerging trends through rigorous analytical frameworks. Students will critically analyse the evolving housing landscape, including transformations in social housing, property rights and institutions, and emergent challenges like homelessness, studentification and urban renewal processes. The course also examines housing dynamics in rural contexts. Through research-intensive interactive sessions and in-depth case studies, students will develop sophisticated analytical tools and interdisciplinary perspectives necessary to investigate frontier issues in housing studies and contribute to innovative theoretical and practical solutions in urban and rural development contexts.

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.

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.

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.

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.

MDUM2020 Digital Technologies and Smart Cities (6 credits)

This course explores the role of digital technologies in smart cities. It provides a comprehensive understanding of how technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data analytics, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are transforming urban environments and services. The course will also cover the impacts of these technologies on urban planning, public administration, and citizen engagement.

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).

RECO7605 Information Management (6 credits)

This course examines fundamental knowledge in information management and its application to the project management in construction. This includes an introduction to information management, information management theories, through-life information management, common information management tools and techniques (e.g. the use of Common Data Environment – CDE), and digital information management (based on ISO 19650) and its effect on collaboration, coordination and integration, commercial and contractual aspects of construction (e.g. Employer Information Requirements (EIR)).

URBA6006 Science of Cities (6 credits)

This course introduces fundamental theories and models for an emerging field of urban sciences, with emphasis on the urban economics, regional science, and spatial planning literature. The primary goal of this course is to strengthen students' theoretic and scientific bases for cities and regions as a prerequisite for the mastery of advanced data analytics or urban modelling techniques. A thorough understanding of the city and the system of cities is essential in developing expertise in urban science, and taking advantage of advanced data analytics and modeling tools would not be possible without the former.

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URBA6007 Geographic Information System (GIS) for Urban and Regional Planning Development (6 credits)

This course introduces the basic concepts and methods in the use of geographic information system as a spatial planning support system in different areas of urban and regional planning and development. It examines the basic principles and functions of geographic information system in data input, manipulation, retrieval, visualization and modelling of geographical data for supporting spatial planning decisions.

URBA6008 Spatial Planning Analytics (6 credits)

Spatial planning shapes the built environment and human activities across sites, neighbourhoods, cities and regions. This course introduces the basic concepts and methods in the use of spatial analytics and modelling to support sustainable urban development across different spatial scales. It is applied oriented and designed to equip students with analytical and modelling techniques for measuring, modelling and predicting urban spatial changes. It covers a wide range of topics, including urban form metrics, geodesign, location choice models, frameworks for land use and transport interaction, and scenario planning. Students will be required to reflect on and design context-specific strategies for a sustainable urban future, based on spatial planning analytics and modelling.
