

HGO4203 – Sustainable Urban Transformations

This course aims to explore challenges and policies related to urban sustainability transformations. Emphasis is placed on the social, cultural and spatial aspects of these challenges and policies. The course involves the analysis of theories about urban sustainability, policy transformations, urban infrastructures, green urbanism and urban adaptive pathways. As a student, you will be part of field visits and dialogues with stakeholders, and develop a smaller study focusing on the challenges of putting theory into practice. The main themes covered by the course are:

- urban sustainability challenges
- urban political ecology and urban metabolisms
- transition in urban infrastructures
- sustainable and green urbanism
- urban adaptive pathways

Learning outcome

Knowledge goals

You will be able to:

- account for and discuss key concepts and theories related to urban sustainability
- explain the relations between theories of transformations and policies and practices

Skills attainment goals

- account for, discuss and critique concepts and theories in a sophisticated manner.
- connect these theories, and critiques thereof, to specific cases and concrete settings through observation as a field methodology
- present a small observation study to an audience, demonstrating the ability to translate empirical insight into informed analytical reflection
- collaborate effectively in group work, including organising and delegating tasks, facilitating academic discussions, and planning and executing a joint presentation

- ~~write and present a paper relating these theories to, either (i) collected data material, or (ii) specific policies, projects and practices within the field of urban sustainability.~~

General competences

You will be able to:

- assess specific situations and challenges involving urban sustainability and sustainable transformations based on theoretically grounded knowledge on this field
- communicate knowledge-based insights and analysis both verbally and in writing
- contribute to the new creative and independent thinking about urban sustainability issues

Teaching

Teaching in this course is lecture- and seminar-based, but also involves an excursion and a small student-led observation study. In the seminars students are expected to prepare for and take part in exercises and discussions.

Compulsory instruction and coursework

- ~~Participation in the seminars is compulsory. Valid absence is allowed for a maximum of 2 seminars.~~
- It is compulsory to give a presentation of a relevant case, based on field notes done during the course

Completed and approved compulsory course work is valid as long as the course is offered. Students who have failed to complete the compulsory attendance cannot take the exam.

Examination

The exam for **HGO4203** is a 4-hour school exam where students are allowed to bring one notebook with handwritten notes. ~~research paper or an investigation related to the themes of the course. The course coordinator will approve the aim, outline and empirical basis for the~~

research paper/investigation within a set deadline. The basis for the paper will be collected data or information, or experience, observations and field notes during the course. The literature may be based on both the list of recommended reading for this course and other literature.

The length of the research paper is maximum 4000 words (plus references).

[Examiner guidelines](#)