UCLouvain

lbarc2240

2023

Utopias and realities of dwelling

3.00 credits	30.0 h	Q1

Teacher(s)	Ledent Gérald ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Gilles
Main themes	1. Definition of key concepts such as dystopia, utopia, eutopia, syntopia and pantopia 2. Analysis of utopian thinking, through the socio-cultural context in which they have emerged 3. Analysis of utopian thinking, through the biographies of authors who have put such ideas forward 4. Statement and application of methodology for field analysis, revealing dissatisfaction which creates utopias 5. Comparison of contemporary issues with utopian thinking 6. Examination of utopia as a motor for transformation in contemporary society
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** **Specific learning outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will be able to • question themselves on the context of the appearance of a utopia, by discovering the dissatisfaction which has led to the emergence of alternative thinking. • look hard at a housing reality and apply methods of approach in the context, linked to the chosen current topic. • develop ways of dystopian, utopian and eutopian thinking, formulated in a relevant way. • apply a eutopian proposal to a given social reality. • understand the gap between production and appropriation needs (practice and representation) of inhabited environments. **Contribution to the learning outcomes reference network:** **Build knowledge of architecture** • Be familiar with and analyse the discipline's basic references 1 **Place the action** • Recognise, observe and produce critical assessments of the targeted environments and contexts • Formulate questions relating to the development of the context being studied to make working hypotheses **Make use of other subjects** • Interpret and synthesise the knowledge of other subjects **Express an architectural procedure** • Test and use relevant means of communication in relation to the intended audience and the target objectives **Make committed choices** • Activate and develop an ethical sense through approaches to architecture • Develop awareness of the political meaning of the work of an architect and his/her responsibility towards society
Evaluation methods	The course will be assessed in a group work combining a written essay and drawn material. Students will be asked to display their understanding of the theoretical concepts developed in the course as well as their ability to produce a critical and consolidated work based on those concepts. Intermediate critics will be organized. They will not be assessed.
Teaching methods	This course is partly lecture based and partly a collective discussion on the intermediate works of the students.
Content	This course outlines the double nature of dwelling, made out of physical structures (house) and uses (home). Architecture cannot be separated from this dual character. Over the course of humanity, the reality of dwelling is disrupted by a series of historical breaks. During these times of uncertainty, imagination addresses the shortcomings of the real world by producing utopias.

	The concept of utopia is used for two different purposes. On the one hand, it is used as a knowledge tool. The double nature of dwelling is analysed in various historical breaks through the critical lens of utopia. On the other hand, it is used as a prospective tool. In this latter case, students are asked to depict our contemporary reality and to produce an utopian counterpart.
Faculty or entity in charge	LOCI

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Architecture (Bruxelles)	ARCB2M	3		