UCLouvain

bhdpo1316 2025

Transformations and urban politics

The version you're consulting is not final. This course description may change. The final version will be published on 1st June.

5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q1

Teacher(s)	Lenel Emmanuelle ;			
Language :	French			
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis			
Prerequisites	The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.			
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : Based on the notion that there is an intrinsic link between society and space and that the two must be considered together, the objectives of the course are:			
	1. To provide an overview of the major urban transformations from the origins of the city until today according to the development of capitalism;			
	2. To understand the fabric of space as a support for action, an instrument of action and a social product;3. To define some of the challenges of contemporary urban policies.			
Evaluation methods	 Oral exam, which includes : 1. A question on the course subject chosen at random (10 points). The student has 10 minutes to think about the question. 2. Presentation and discussion of a pre-prepared question (10 points). This question will be the subject of a 			
	short personal written assignment. The use of generative AI is tolerated for the formal correction of the assignment (and not for the production of the content), but must be indicated. Marking will take account of its originality and personal character.			
Teaching methods	Teaching takes place in the form of lecture sessions. It is nevertheless designed to be dynamic and involving. Students will be asked to take part in an external activity linked to the course, to be chosen from a range of proposals. They will have to mobilize the notions they have seen in order to take an analytical look at its content.			
	A syllabus will be provided to students during the semester. As it is not exhaustive, students are required to take careful notes. Powerpoint material for oral presentations will be sent out no later than the day before the class (cf. Moodle).			
Content	The course takes a social science approach to analyzing the "urban phenomenon", its evolution and the ways in which public authorities are tackling major contemporary issues. It draws mainly on sociology, with contributions from history (to understand the major urban revolutions), political science (to decipher the logic of public action applied to the urban environment) and urban planning (to characterize forms of territorial organization). It is divided into two main sections:			
	1. The urban phenomenon: history and fundamental dynamics . This section looks at the 3 major "urban revolutions" in relation to the socio-economic changes that underpin them. It also presents the fundamental contributions of a number of classic (Weber, Tönnies, Simmel, Chicago Tradition) and more contemporary (Lefèbvre and Sassen in particular) authors to our understanding of the "urban fact".			
	2. Issues and mechanisms of contemporary urban policies . Using a critical perspective and concrete case studies from Brussels, Europe and the rest of the world, this section presents some of the issues at stake in contemporary urban policies (mobility, soscio-spatial segregation, access to public space, housing crisis, as well as climate challengeand durability) and the main public responses to them.			
Bibliography	Bibliographie complète sur le Moodle du cours.			
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPB			

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)					
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes	
Minor in Sociology and Anthropology	MINSOCA	5		۹	
Bachelor in Information and Communication	COMB1BA	5	BESPO1160	۹	
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French- English)	COAB1BA	5	BESPO1160	۹	
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French-Dutch- English)	COTB1BA	5	BESPO1161	٩	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology	SOCB1BA	5	BESPO1160	٩	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-English)	SOAB1BA	5	BESPO1160	٩	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-Dutch- English)	SOTB1BA	5	BESPO1161	٩	
Bachelor in Political Sciences	SPOB1BA	5	BESPO1160	٩	
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-English)	SPAB1BA	5	BESPO1160	٩	
Bachelor in Political Sciences (shift schedule)	SPDB1BA	5	BHDPO1125	٩	