UCLouvain

lgeo2210

2026

Shaping sustainable urban areas

4.00 credits	30.0 h	Q1

Teacher(s)	Zu Ermgassen Erasmus ;
Language :	French > English-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	The relations between cities and their territories, local and distant, are at the core of contemporary sustainability issues. The course aims to provide theoretical, empirical and methodological tools for (i) understanding the material, socio-economic, cultural and political relations between urban spaces and the other spaces, rural, periurban and other urban ones, that form the territories of cities (hinterland and foreland), (ii) intervening in these territories in a sustainable development and sustainability perspective.
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** 1 At the end of this course, the student is capable to: 1. Master theoretical knowledge in geography of urban spaces and territories connected to these spaces 2. Translate this knowledge into methods for analysing data on cities and flows in urban territores 3. Realise a diagnostic on urban territories and resources management therein 4. Assess and design projects of urban and ecoterritories development based on the principles of sustainable development
Evaluation methods	1. In-class participation (60 % of the final grade) 2. Final project presentation (40 %) The marks obtained for class participation are applied to each of the exam sessions for the academic year. If a student does not pass the course, the final project can be repeated.
Teaching methods	**A mix of presentations, exercises, and inverted classroom -**classes will be interactive, with students expected to read and prepare materials in advance, as indicated on Moodle.
Content	The course will study the environmental impact of cities and howthese impacts can be mitigated. Notably, urban areas do not existin isolation, they are dependent on resources which are sourcedfrom local and global supply chains, and sustainable urbandevelopment and planning requires accounting for impacts beyondcity boundaries. As well as introducing participants to quantitative methods fromthe fields of industrial ecology and geography, the classes will coverurban food systems, sustainable infrastructure and housing,circular economy, green transport, and nature-based solutions forcities. Throughout we will link our contexts to real cities andongoing policy efforts to make urban life more sustainable.
Inline resources	Class materials will be made available on Moodle.
Faculty or entity in charge	GEOG

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [60] in Geography : General	GEOG2M1	4		
Interdisciplinary Advanced Master in Science and Management of the Environment and Sustainable Development	ENVI2MC	3		
Master [120] in Population and Development Studies	SPED2M	4		
Master [120] in Geography : General	GEOG2M	4		
Master [120] in Urban Planning and Territorial Development	URBA2M	3		
Master [120] of Education, Section 4 : Geography	GEOG2M4	4		