

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES
(BA[UrbanStud])**

These syllabuses are applicable to candidates admitted under the 4-year '2012 curriculum' to the first year of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies in 2012-13.

Students entering the 4-year Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies curriculum in the academic year 2012-13 will take a professional core of 144 credits (including 120 credits of core courses and 24 credits of Faculty Foundation courses), 54 credits in language and Common Core courses and 42 credits of electives, totalling 240 credits for the 4-year curriculum.

Most courses are 6-credit courses, with the exception of the Urban Studies Studio I, Urban Studies Studio II, Advanced Urban Studies Studio I and Advanced Urban Studies Studio II which are 12 credits.

The syllabuses of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies shall comprise the following requirements:

University Requirements

54 credits of compulsory University requirements which must be completed successfully:

(i) One 6-credit course in Core University English ¹ ; one 6-credit course in English in the Discipline; and one 6-credit course in Chinese language enhancement ²	18 credits
(ii) Six 6-credit courses in the Common Core Curriculum, selecting not more than one course from the same Area of Inquiry within one academic year and at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry during the whole period of study	36 credits

¹ Candidates who have achieved Level 5** in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, may at the discretion of the Faculty be exempted from this requirement and should take an elective course in lieu, see UG6 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

² Putonghua-speaking students should take CUND9002 or CUND9003. Students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education / who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take CEUC9001 can apply (i) to take credit-bearing Cantonese or Putonghua language courses offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students; OR (ii) to be exempted from the Chinese language requirement and take an elective course in lieu.

Faculty Requirements

24 credits of compulsory Faculty Foundation courses which must be completed successfully:

(i) Four 6-credit Faculty Foundation courses - Introduction to Building Technology - Visual Culture - Housing and Cities - Sustainability and the Built Environment	24 credits
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Professional Core of Urban Studies

First Year of Study

Year 1 students are required to take the University's Common Core courses, language courses and the Faculty Foundation courses.

- Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies and Conservation Students (6 credits)
- Core University English (6 credits)
- 4 Common Core courses (24 credits)
- Introduction to Building Technology (6 credits)
- Visual Culture (6 credits)
- Housing and Cities (6 credits)
- Sustainability and the Built Environment (6 credits)

Second Year of Study

Year 2 curriculum is to introduce students the theories of urban and regional development that it is operating. The Urban Studies Studio will introduce students to project work and studio teaching and learning environment through problem-based learning projects and assignments and additional training in skills and methods. The Communication Studio will enable students develop skills which is useful in their communication of urban issues and solutions with the community. Students are required to take 12 credits of University Common Core courses and 6 credits of elective course, to broaden their knowledge and English in the Discipline.

- English in the Discipline (6 credits)
Communication Course for Built Environment Students
- 2 Common Core courses (12 credits)
- Urban and Regional Development I (6 credits)
- Urban Studies Studio I (12 credits)

- Communication Studio I (6 credits)
- Land Economics (6 credits)
- Introduction to Law and Contract (6 credits)

- Elective (6 credits)

Third Year of Study

Year 3 curriculum further introduces students to the theories of urban and regional development. It will also introduce students to urban planning and management. Further spatial analysis, planning and design skills will be developed in Urban Studies Studio and Communication Studio. They will also be taking research methodology course to develop their urban analysis skills. Students will take Elective courses from other departments and faculties to broaden their knowledge and develop multi-disciplinary perspectives.

- Urban and Regional Development II (6 credits)
- Urban Planning and Urban Management (6 credits)
- Urban Studies Studio II (12 credits)
- Communication Studio II (6 credits)
- Environment, Community and Design (6 credits)
- Introduction to Conservation (6 credits)
- Research Methods in Urban Studies (6 credits)

- 2 Electives (12 credits)

Final Year of study

In the Final Year, students will be introduced to urban policy and governance. In the two Advanced Urban Studies Studios, students will carry out capstone research projects that synthesize what they have learnt in the programme and further develop their understanding and analysis of issues of urban development.

They will continue to take Elective courses from other departments and faculties to broaden their knowledge and develop multi-disciplinary perspectives.

- Advanced Urban Studies Studio I (Capstone) (12 credits)
- Advanced Urban Studies Studio II (Capstone) (12 credits)

- Urban Policy and Governance (6 credits)
- Real Estate Investment and Finance (6 credits)

- 4 Electives (24 credits)

Course Offerings for Minors in Urban Studies

Students of other degree programmes intending to minor in Urban Studies must complete at least 36 credits among the courses listed below. Student must complete at least three Urban Studies courses (with the course code URBS) from the list.

URBS2002 Urban and Regional Development I	(6 credits)
RECO2029 Land Economics	(6 credits)
URBS3002 Urban and Regional Development II (Prerequisite: Urban and Regional Development I)	(6 credits)
URBS3004 Urban Planning and Urban Management	(6 credits)
CONS1001 Introduction to Conservation	(6 credits)
ARCH3103 Environment, Community and Design	(6 credits)
URBS4003 Urban Policy and Governance	(6 credits)
RECO3029 Real Estate Investment and Finance	(6 credits)

Double counting of credits is not permissible for minor in Urban Studies. When a course is used to satisfy the requirements of another curriculum or programme, it shall not be counted towards the fulfillment of the requirements of this minor.

Course Description

Year 1

CAES1000 Core University English (6 credits)

The Core University English (CUE) course aims to enhance first-year students' academic English language proficiency in the university context. CUE focuses on developing students' academic English language skills for the Common Core Curriculum. These include the language skills needed to understand and produce spoken and written academic texts, express academic ideas and concepts clearly and in a well-structured manner and search for and use academic sources of information in their writing and speaking. Students will also complete four online-learning modules through the Moodle platform on academic grammar, academic vocabulary, citation and referencing skills and understanding and avoiding plagiarism. This course will help students to participate more effectively in their first-year university studies in English, thereby enriching their first-year experience.

Assessment: 60% continuous coursework assessment and 40% examination

CEUC9001 Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies and Conservation Students (6 credits)

The main objective of this course is to enhance the students' command of Chinese for the

construction and surveying profession through basic training in presentation skills and in specific techniques for the preparation of target-oriented letters, proposals, plans and reports. This course also aims to develop students' ability to engage in negotiations, debates as well as critical and creative thinking. In order to promote artistic and aesthetic appreciation, thematic lectures and topical workshops on Chinese calligraphic and artistic representations will be conducted. Site visits to traditional Chinese temples, gardens and museums will be organized to provide students with opportunities to gain hands-on experiences of the inner dynamics of Chinese culture. Students will be able to acquire sophisticated Chinese language skills and knowledge of Chinese culture within the context of the discipline of construction and surveying.

Assessment: 50% continuous coursework assessment and 50% examination

RECO1201 Introduction to Building Technology (6 credits)

This course provides the fundamental knowledge and concepts for functional design and construction of buildings. The aim of the course is to help students to explain why the building stands up, identify the function of essential elements and components of buildings, including the materials used and their installation methods.

A morphological approach will be used to explain the building elements and components. Students will learn how to read from drawings and sketches, and appreciate their practical application from site visits.

Topics will cover structural elements, building envelopes and services of buildings, including the materials and methods of their installation.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

RECO1200 Housing and Cities (6 credits)

The aim of this course is to develop students' abilities to identify, describe and analyze critically housing issues within cities in an increasingly global context. The course is explicitly interdisciplinary, and develops a three-category city typology together with a parallel analysis of housing as an increasingly complex social, political and economic issue as the pace of urbanization increases. Insights are developed sequentially: first into urbanization and informal housing and settlements in *developing cities*, followed by *transitional cities* and housing systems, and then considers housing in *developed economy cities*. The three city typology provides the context for the introduction of recurrent and emerging debates about housing and the nature of cities in the 21st century as the three city categories converge. Upon completion of the course students have an appreciation of the complexity of urban policy issues in an increasingly urban world, and an appreciation of one of the major functions of cities - housing people.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

ARCH1027 Visual Culture (6 credits)

This course introduces students to visual literacy and visual thinking. Critical thinking, visual

analysis and reflection on personal experience will be emphasized. Students will develop creative observations through taxonomies of visual grammars; and understand their active participation as both consumer and producer in the world of visual culture. Students will explore a broad introduction to art history and visual culture, introducing key themes, figures, and movements.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

ARCH1028 Sustainability and the Built Environment (6 credits)

The course examines the broad range of issues confronting mankind's search for a sustainable future, such as: population & urbanization; transportation & logistics; technology & mobility; water; waste; energy; food; (natural) disasters; and community & governance. Through the perspective of contemporary and historical case studies students explore how people, in their visions of the future, have sought to perfect built environments as the setting for model communities.

The ideas raised in the lectures, reinforced through weekly readings and weekly tutorial sessions, are brought together at the end of the course with an intensive workshop, in which students look to define their own vision of a sustainable community. This course is intended to inspire thinking about the way we should construct our living environments in future, in order to find a sustainable balance.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

4 Common Core courses (24 credits)

Core courses

Year 2

CAES9121 Communication Course for Real Estate & Built Environment Students (6 credits)

This English-in-the-Discipline course is designed to help students to respond effectively to the communication demands of their studio programme. The focus is on raising students' awareness of the genre of professional discourse by providing them with opportunities to enhance their linguistic range in their approach to cultural, real estate & built environment literacy.

Activities are organised through engagement in project-based discussion and written tasks designed to simulate the English Language demands on Surveying and Built Environment professionals.

The out-of-class learning component of the course will supplement the main aims by consolidating use of real estate & built environment business-related vocabulary and further enhancing students' writing. Students will also become familiar with self-evaluation and with resources they can access to take responsibility to improve their own language skills in

future.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBS2001 Urban Studies Studio I (12 credits)

This studio enables students to apply and integrate the skills and knowledge learnt in the courses to case studies and projects in analyzing urban issues. Spatial analysis and planning skills will be developed in the studio, which will include emphasis on project planning, impact assessment, financing, and community engagement.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBS2002 Urban and Regional Development I (6 credits)

The course introduces students to basic theories for understanding cities. Drawing on multidisciplinary perspectives, students will learn relevant theories from urban sociology, public policy and political science, economics, design, geography, environmental management and planning.

Assessment: 30% continuous coursework assessment and 70% examination

URBS2003 Communication Studio I (6 credits)

Communication Studio I will introduce students to different methods and media in communicating their ideas with the community. These include report presentation, visual and multi-media presentation. It will also provide students with basic skills and techniques (in freehand drawing, photography, 2D and 3D CAD drawing, laser cutting, model making, Illustrator and Photoshop software) which allow the students to experiment with many of the issues and ideas introduced. Students will be responsible for individual projects which exhibit their grasp of the lecture topics.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

RECO2027 Introduction to Law and Contract (6 Credits)

Legal framework of the HKSAR - the Basic Law and the HKSAR legal system; Elements of the law of contract; Construction contracts – standard forms; Discharging and enforcing contracts.

Assessment: 20% continuous coursework assessment and 80% examination

RECO2029 Land Economics (6 credits)

Location, trade and economic growth; the concept of rent and economic rent; producers'

location decisions; urban land markets; economic regions; land as a natural resource; money and interest theory; timing problems in the land conversion process; renovation and redevelopment cycles; land stock control; government land and housing policies; social costs and land rent dissipation.

Assessment: 20% continuous coursework assessment and 80% examination

2 Common Core courses (12 credits)

Elective (6 credits)

Year 3

URBS3001 Urban Studies Studio II (12 credits)

This studio enables students to apply and integrate the skills and knowledge learnt in the courses to case studies and projects in analyzing urban issues. Further spatial analysis and planning skills will be developed in the studio, which will include emphasis on project planning, impact assessment, financing, and community engagement.

Pre-requisite: URBS2001 Urban Studies Studio I

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

URBS3002 Urban and Regional Development II (6 credits)

The course further introduces students to basic theories for understanding cities. Drawing on multidisciplinary perspectives, students learn relevant theories from urban sociology, public policy and political science, economics, design, geography, environmental management and planning.

Assessment: 30% continuous coursework assessment and 70% examination

Pre-requisite: URBS2002 Urban and Regional Development I

URBS3004 Urban Planning and Urban Management (6 credits)

This course reviews the processes and theories of urban development, urban planning, and the management of cities. It examines key issues and concerns in the management of cities such as spatial strategy, transport policy, infrastructure provision, environmental policy, development controls and urban sustainability.

Assessment: 30% continuous coursework assessment and 70% examination

URBS3003 Communication Studio II (6 credits)

This course will further introduce representation techniques and theories in urban development and planning. It will expand the fundamental relationships between dynamic urban development processes and methods in which they are understood, conveyed, and visually communicated. The course will cover a range of visual representation techniques from methods of mapping, illustrating time-based process, synthesizing bio-physical and human processes to depiction of proposed strategies and alternative futures. Students will be responsible for individual projects which exhibit their grasp of the lecture topics.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS2003 Communication Studio I

URBS4004 Research Methods in Urban Studies (6 credits)

Introduction to the basic qualitative and quantitative methods used to analyze cities and regions, including qualitative methods, sampling, questionnaire design, statistics, and urban modelling.

Assessment: 30% continuous coursework assessment and 70% examination

ARCH3103 Environment, Community and Design (6 credits)

Environment, Community and Design are the three tenets of landscape architecture, and this course examines how landscape architecture can generate sustainable design responses that negotiate between communities and their environments. The course explores the social and behavioural aspects of landscapes through the understanding of community identity and self, neighbourhood, common ground and ownership of the public realm, environmental psychology and third place. The course will focus on developing design principles as they relate to cultural practices, social behaviour, and community building through the medium of landscape. Various approaches to community engagement and participation within the design process will also be introduced. The mode of assessment would be 100% continuous coursework assessment, comprising detailed case studies and research assignments, community mapping and design exercises with existing community groups in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

CONS1001 Introduction to Conservation (6 credits)

The purpose of conservation is to retain the values of a heritage place while extending its physical life. This course introduces the principles and practices of the heritage conservation field, including an introduction to the history and development of the field from its beginnings to today. The conservation process is explored, including the identification of heritage values and character-defining elements as well as the various conservation treatments. An overview of best practices contained in heritage charters, conventions, recommendations and declarations is also addressed. Attention is given to the World Heritage

Convention, the World Heritage List and the evolving concepts of authenticity and integrity.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

2 Electives (12 credits)

Year 4

URBS4001 Advanced Urban Studies Studio I (Capstone) (12 credits)

Students will carry out capstone research projects that solidify and integrate their academic and practical understanding of urban issues and allow them to develop further skills and knowledge in their desired area with advanced urban analysis techniques, such as GIS and urban modelling.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS3001 Urban Studies Studio II

URBS4002 Advanced Urban Studies Studio II (Capstone) (12 credits)

Students will further carry out capstone research projects that solidify and integrate their academic and practical understanding of urban issues and allow them to develop further skills and knowledge in their desired area with advanced urban analysis techniques, such as GIS and urban modelling.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS4001 Advanced Urban Studies Studio I

URBS4003 Urban Policy and Governance (6 credits)

The institutional structure and public administration of cities, including sectors such as housing and transport; the management and governance of mega-city region; public participation and engagement in urban management and governance.

Assessment: 30% continuous coursework assessment and 70% examination

RECO3029 Real Estate Investment and Finance (6 credits)

Interactions between space and asset markets; financial economic concepts and tools for real estate analysis; real estate valuation and investment analysis at property and business levels; leverage and mortgages; statistical modelling and forecasting; price indices and derivatives; real options and land value.

Assessment: 40% continuous coursework assessment and 60% examination

Prerequisite: RECO2029 Land Economics

4 Electives (24 credits)

Elective courses

Students can choose to take courses offered within or outside the Faculty.

/BAUS 2014-15 Syllabuses for 2012-13 cohort
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