

(THESE SYLLABUSES ARE APPLICABLE TO MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO THE CURRICULUM IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017)

## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING**

The Department of Urban Planning and Design offers a postgraduate course leading to the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning.

---

### **A. CURRICULUM STRUCTURE**

The curriculum shall include assessment of the prescribed and elective courses subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design, the Urban Planning Studios and a Dissertation. Candidates studying both the full-time and part-time curricula are required to complete a total of 126 credits of courses.

Candidates are required to follow courses of instruction and satisfy the examiners in the “Foundation Course on Statistics and Quantitative Methods” and in each of the following seven Core Courses:

- Values in Planning;
- Urban Development Theories;
- Research Methods in Spatial Planning;
- Urban Design and Place Making;
- Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong;
- Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process;
- Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions.

and in the equivalent of not less than three Elective Courses (normally 6 credits each) as specialization selected from a list approved from time to time. Candidates’ selection of courses shall be approved by the Head of the Department. In addition, candidates are required to complete satisfactorily the urban planning studios and submit in the final year of study a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a date to be specified by the Head of the Department.

---

### **B. ASSESSMENT**

Each of the courses followed by candidates is examined either by an assessment of coursework, or by a combination of coursework assessment and a written examination.

Full-time candidates

- (a) shall follow not less than six courses in the first academic year of study and shall attend two urban planning studios; and
- (b) shall follow the equivalent of not less than four courses in the final academic year of study and shall attend an urban planning studio, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date.

Part-time candidates

- (a) shall follow a minimum of four courses in the first academic year of study;
- (b) shall follow a minimum of the equivalent of one course in the second year of study and shall attend two urban planning studios; and
- (c) shall follow a minimum of three courses (up to the required total of eleven courses, of which seven are Core Courses and the equivalent of three are Elective Courses) and shall attend the urban planning studio in the final year of study, and shall present a Dissertation by the

prescribed date.

Part-time candidates wishing to defer or advance a course or courses to another year of study shall seek the approval of the Head of the Department in writing.

---

## **C. COURSE LIST**

### **Foundation Course**

---

#### **URBP6911. Foundation course on statistics and quantitative methods (6 credits)**

This is a general foundation course on statistics, quantitative methods and computer techniques that are commonly used in urban analysis and planning. It introduces students the fundamentals of descriptive, inferential and multivariate statistical techniques and quantitative methods. The aim is to develop students a basic level of competence and ability in using them in urban analysis and planning.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

### **Urban Planning Core Courses**

Students are required to take all Core Courses:

#### **URBP6002. Urban development theories (6 credits)**

This course reviews the theoretical frameworks for the understanding of urban development processes. It analyses the economic, spatial and socio-political dimensions of urban activities. The dynamics of urbanization in the global production system, the relations between capital accumulation and urban development, place marketing and the rise of the creative cities will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

#### **URBP6003. Planning practice, law and ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

This course provides a detailed understanding of professional planning practice in Hong Kong. It deals with the practical dimensions of planning in both the public and private sectors. The course reviews the history, policies, strategies, administrative and legal procedures of planning. It also examines issues surrounding the ethical basis of professional planning activity.

Assessment: 60%-70% continuous coursework assessment and 30%-40% examination

---

#### **URBP7003. Research methods in spatial planning (6 credits)**

This course introduces basic research methods and techniques in urban and regional spatial planning. It will examine research design methods, data collection, and the use of statistical as well as qualitative techniques in data analysis. It will also examine analytical models and evaluation and management methods that are commonly used in spatial planning and research.

Assessment: 30%-40% continuous coursework assessment and 60%-70% examination

---

**URBP6901. Values in planning (6 credits)**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the theoretical basis of urban and regional planning. It examines the nature and value of the planning process through different theoretical paradigms. Through active class deliberations on issues surrounding the roles and definitions of knowledge, the public interest, equal opportunities and ethics in the planning process, students will develop their own value system in planning.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6006. Planning, managing and financing the development process (6 credits)**

Planning in a development process needs to take into account a variety of spatial, sectoral, resources management and financial factors. This course examines the interactions of these factors in development processes initiated by the public sector, the private developers or through various modes of public-private partnership. The intersectoral and spatial implications of the development processes will be explored through case studies of planning at different geographical scales in the context of Hong Kong.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6007. Planning sustainable cities and regions (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the linkages between sustainable development and the planning of cities and regions. It comprises three main elements: firstly, a review and discussion of the principles of sustainable development, the concept of sustainability and related theories and discourses such as ecological modernisation, secondly, the design of policies to promote sustainable urban and regional development and related sustainability assessment systems, and, thirdly, contemporary practice in sustainability planning as reflected in emerging international experience in the field.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6902. Urban design and place making (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the theories, principles, processes, methods and practice of urban design and place making. Through literature reviews and case studies students begin to clearly understand the importance of policy, planning, design, and management in place making. Students comprehend the value of common visions, cultural diversity and community aspirations in the process of design in the creation of high quality places to live, work and play. Students undertake site specific place making design projects at the development and public realm context. Students are challenged to generate visionary, imaginative and realistic responses through investigation, analysis to make informed design decisions and creative recommendations.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

## **Elective Courses**

(Students shall take no less than 18 credits of elective courses as specialization to be approved by the Head of the Department. Not all courses are available each year. Applicants should consult the Department for further information.)

### **URBP6123. Public transport systems (6 credits)**

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems mainly in the urban context with special reference to high density development. Topics include the nature and the characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems, deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **URBP6903. Quantitative methods for transport planning (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the transport planning process and examines the following: traffic generation forecasts; spatial patterns of traffic; modal split models; traffic assignment methods; transport evaluation; network and local planning; traffic engineering considerations and basic transport economics.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)**

This course focuses on key issues in transport policy and the implementation of transport plans and programmes. It examines the role of private and public modes within the overall urban transport system as well as pedestrian movement planning, airport development and seaport development. The course uses examples drawn from various countries to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of alternative policies and implementation mechanisms.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **URBP6157. Transport economics (6 credits)**

This course helps to develop a specialist appreciation of the economics of urban transport provision. It highlights the economic principles and techniques employed in planning, operating and managing our city transport systems and concentrates on topics such as: travel time valuation, road congestion costing and pricing, public transport finance and cost-recovery, and economic appraisal techniques employed therein.

Assessment: 40%-60% continuous coursework assessment and 40%-60% examination

### **MHMP6858. Housing economics (6 credits)**

This course provides a basic introduction to economics and the application of economic concepts in the analysis of housing issues. The course also deals with the principles of cost-benefit analysis and

economic evaluation in general in the housing context. Other topics covered include land policy and economics, cycles in housing activity, the financing of housing development and privatization. The course also introduces the functions, principles and methods of valuation.

Assessment: 25% - 100% coursework assessment and 0% - 75% examination

---

#### **MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices (6 credits)**

This course aims to compare housing policies and practices at an international scale and to explore global housing issues. It examines and compares the evolution of housing policies in different housing systems, the modes of intervention in the housing markets, the roles of the public and private sectors in housing provision, housing finance systems, and the relationships between housing standards and societal conditions. Prevailing global trends and issues in housing are also examined.

Assessment: 25% - 100% coursework assessment and 0% - 75% examination

---

#### **MHMP8008. Transitional cities: urban and housing development (6 credits)**

Building upon comparative concepts and introductory materials of local knowledge, this course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore contemporary urban changes both in the countries that are undergoing the transition from the planned to a market-oriented economy and in newly industrialised economies. The course has a regional focus on cities in Pacific Asia, in particular Chinese cities, and cities in Central and Eastern Europe. By the end of the course, students should be able to gain an empirical understanding of diverse local contexts and to broaden the concepts discussed in urban and housing studies.

Assessment: 25% - 100% coursework assessment and 0% - 75% examination

---

#### **URBP6904. Housing, planning and sustainability (6 credits)**

This course aims to provide an integrative and in-depth understanding of Hong Kong's housing system and its relationships with urban planning and the concepts of sustainable development. It discusses the theoretical and practical aspects of housing, making special reference to their relationships with urban planning and sustainable development. Major topics include the housing system concepts, the political economy of housing policies, land use planning and housing affordability, principals of residential planning, housing policy analyses, housing market analyses, and the application of the sustainable development perspective to housing analyses.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

#### **ENVM7012. Environmental economics and analysis (3 credits)**

The aim of this course is to equip students with the ability to undertake economic analyses of the environment. The course provides an introduction to economic concepts and principles and applies them to the analysis and management of environmental problems. The course covers the economic understanding of environmental problems (e.g. external costs and benefits, public goods, resource scarcity), economic instruments for environmental management (e.g. taxes, subsidies, tradable permits), methods for valuing environmental goods and services (market and non-market approaches), and economic tools for supporting decision-making (e.g. cost-benefit analysis). All topics will be illustrated with current environmental and policy issues to emphasize their relevance and applicability.

Assessment: 100% coursework assessment

---

**ENVM8011. Environmental auditing and reporting (3 credits)**

This course provides an introduction on the concepts of environmental management, auditing and reporting. It is dedicated to the construction, implementation and continuous improvement of an EMS based on ISO14001:2015. This course also examines audit methodology and skills based on ISO19011:2011. Emphasis is placed on practical approaches to improving environmental performance from the audit results. Environmental reporting covers reporting on systems and auditing as well as social and sustainability reporting in accordance to Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). A short introduction is given to energy management standard ISO50001:2011 and carbon auditing standards ISO14064:2006.

Assessment: 100% coursework assessment

---

**ENVM7016. Environmental policy (3 credits)**

This course focuses on key aspects of environmental policy-making and policy-implementation processes, such as how policy agendas emerge and evolve, how environmental discourse shapes policy outputs; and how institutions affect the trajectories and outcomes of environmental policy measures. Making references to local, national and international cases of successful and not-so-successful policies that pertain to the sustainable development agenda, the course also examines the theories and praxis of policy transfer and policy convergence, as well as the perennial problematics of policy integration, policy learning and policy failure.

Assessment: 100% coursework assessment

---

**ENVM8006. Environmental impact assessment (3 credits)**

EIA is one of the most important contemporary instruments of environmental management. Used widely around the world to identify the impacts of development projects as well as strategic plans and policies, EIA plays a key role in many regulatory systems for the environment. This course reviews the development of different approaches to EIA, basic analytical principles, administrative systems for EIA, assessments at the project and strategic levels (SIA) and case study applications in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 50% coursework assessment and 50% examination

---

**URBP6017. Geographic information system (GIS) for urban and regional planning development (6 credits)**

This course introduces the basic concepts and methods in the use of geographic information system as a spatial planning support system in different areas of urban and regional planning and development. It examines the basic principles and functions of geographic information system in data input, manipulation, retrieval, visualization and modelling of geographical data for supporting spatial planning decisions.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China (6 credits)**

This course examines the processes of globalization and studies its implications for urban and regional development in China. It studies the general concepts of urban development and the historical legacy constraining the urban development in China. With China's accession to WTO membership, special emphasis is placed on the interactions between the transnational corporations (TNCs) and the different level of the state and local governments. Regional dynamics will be examined in the context of global competitiveness.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP8002. International planning policy and practice (6 credits)**

This course examines different planning systems across the world. Understanding the key approaches to urban planning in different countries and regions is important in developing an appreciation of how different techniques, policies, and practices emerged and developed to help shape the urban landscapes of various localities within their own contexts. The course takes a comparative approach to understand and evaluate planning policy and practice and the planning outcomes across a spectrum of international case studies, and attempts to explain their differences and similarities by probing into the dynamics between government intervention and market freedom, diversity in development certainty vis-à-vis land use controls and planning governance modes.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP8003. Land and real estate markets: smart governance, finance and business models (6 credits)**

This course provides a land and real estate development perspective on urban development. Cities face continuous processes of both expansion and transformation. Population growth and economic growth lead to expansion, while processes of obsolescence and decline lead to a demand for urban transformation projects. These processes usually require investments in land and property (re)development, while planning interventions provide guidelines to investors, sometimes as opportunities, but also as barriers to what an investor might see as a profitable investment. The interaction between planning interventions on the one hand and land and real estate investments on the other hand is the central theme of this course. Starting from that interaction the course pays attention to different planning approaches and their impact on land and real estate markets, the dynamics of land and real estate markets, investment behaviour by private and public developers, public private partnerships, land management strategies and value capturing mechanisms and smart land and real estate investment strategies.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6906. Urban planning and practice in China (6 credits)**

The course will first review the history of urban planning practice in the People's Republic of China. The relationship between economic and urban planning, the evolution of the planning legislation and the practice of planning at different geographical scales will be discussed. The course will then focus on planning practice in the Pearl River Delta region and its major cities where the transitional economy is evolving rapidly. Issues surrounding the institutionalisation of planning regulations, systems and hierarchy; the formulation and implementation of plans; and problems of development control will be examined.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6907. Special study in urban planning (6 credits)**

Detailed study or studies on a topic or topics in contemporary urban and regional planning approved by the Head of the Department.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**RECO6066. Real estate development and land policies (6 credits)**

This module deals with the economics and structure of the real estate industry with special reference to Hong Kong. It introduces the real estate sector as consisting of three interrelated subsectors, namely the market for real estate services, the market for real estate assets, and the real estate development market. The module also introduces principles of real estate market analysis and real estate project evaluation.

Assessment: 40% coursework and 60% examination

---

**ARCH6104. Urban design technologies & innovations I (6 credits)**

The course focuses on technologies-related tools and techniques in professional urban design practice, and enables designers to fully exploit technologies and techniques for urban physical environment appraisal, urban development design and communication at small and medium spatial scales. It also includes an overview of innovations and techniques in urban design.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**ARCH6070. Research methods for urban design (6 credits)**

The course introduces candidates to research methodology appropriate for urban design. Topics include: formulation of research questions; qualitative and quantitative research methods; environmental design attributes and research paradigms; formulation of research proposals; use of computers in urban design research.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**ARCH7060. Morphologies & Urban design theories (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the three natures of urban morphology: natural and built environment, institutional configurations and urban design theories. Introduction to urban morphologies will examine key concepts, the study of the formation of urban fabric, the relationship of these components through time and at different spatial scales in local and international contexts. Urban design theories describe the state of the art of the relationship between urban morphology and human effects or impacts referenced to the key historical urban design thinkers.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment



**ARCH7121. Urban design technologies & innovations II (6 credits)**

The course focuses on higher level technologies-related tools and techniques in professional urban design practice, and enables designers to fully exploit technologies and techniques for urban physical environment appraisal, urban development design, socio-economic and political considerations and communication at large spatial scales. It also includes an overview of regulatory innovations and techniques in urban design.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**ARCH7260. Housing in urban development (6 credits)**

The course investigates the production of housing within the social, political and spatial conditions in urban development. Topics include social and economic determinants of housing location, standards and quality of design; impact on urban development; analysis of housing production including site and infrastructure, provisions; constraints and innovations in the housing industry; and case studies by field trip.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

---

**ARCH7261. The design of Chinese cities (6 credits)**

The course looks into the basic physical organization and development of traditional, colonial and contemporary Chinese cities. It aims to introduce methods in understanding how built forms, particularly urban public spaces and city fabric, express certain aspirations of a culture, and how culture itself conditions their physical shape. It also addresses the issue of urban transformation: how cities took the shape they did? What and why have they changed from their past forms to the present shape? Field trips form an integral part of the course.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

---

**ARCH7264. Contemporary urbanism (6 credits)**

This course integrates urban analysis research and architectural design methodologies to examine relationships between architecture and urbanism through the development of a working understanding of urban and architectural form in the context of the Contemporary City. The course examines the contemporary urban condition through readings of critical theories, analysis of developmental models, as well as empirical investigation of urban sites. In conjunction with physical, historical, social and economic research, alternative design strategies are explored to challenge existing presumptions and models of the contemporary urbanism.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

---

**CONS8103. Charters and legislation of conservation (6 credits)**

This course introduces the guiding principles and legal framework for heritage conservation, as established in international charters and regional legislation, and examines in particular detail their application in Hong Kong, Macao, Mainland China and Southeast Asia.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**CONS8109. Cultural landscapes (6 credits)**

This course focuses on understanding heritage places using the concept of cultural landscapes – landscapes that reflect distinctive patterns of interaction between people and the natural environment. The course examines the current theory and practice of cultural landscapes, especially within the context of Hong Kong, Macao, Mainland China and Southeast Asia.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**CONS8110. Architectural heritage and its significance (6 credits)**

This course focuses on heritage buildings and sites in relation to their settings within a socio-cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the built heritage of Hong Kong, Macao and Mainland China. Case studies are used to illustrate the process of understanding of the heritage values of these buildings and sites, and how to use these values to prepare a Statement of Significance as part of a conservation plan

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**Urban Planning Studios and Dissertation**

---

**URBP7001. Spatial planning studio (12 credits)**

This is the first of three studios in the Urban Planning Program and provides the basic foundation for Planning Studios at regional and territorial, and local community levels. Through class lectures and literature reviews students are introduced to spatial planning undertaken at these various levels and the importance of location and space in the resulting spatial pattern. Students are also introduced to and develop a basic proficiency in graphic (manual and computer 2D/3D visualizations), written and oral communication skills. Students get hands-on experience working in teams of four or five preparing and making presentations of preliminary spatial planning projects.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP7002. Regional and territorial planning studio (12 credits)**

This studio is designed to enhance student's understanding of the complex multi-faceted nature of planning in the international, regional and metropolitan context. Students will be exposed to the strategic planning context of Hong Kong. A compulsory fieldtrip outside Hong Kong will be arranged to provide a better understanding of the international and practical planning issues. The territorial component of this studio will investigate and evaluate an urban planning and development policy issue. Students will work in a multi-disciplinary team, simulating a consultancy/task force situation. They will carry out a literature review, data collection, qualitative and quantitative analysis, evaluation and making recommendations. They are expected to relate theory to practice with a multi-dimensional perspective, and through interaction with concerned stakeholders, to recognize the social, environmental, economic and political challenges so as to reach a balanced recommendation.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**URBP8001. Community planning studio (12 credits)**

In this studio, students will work in partnership with local community groups and relevant stakeholders and apply their theoretical knowledge and practical skills to generate visionary, imaginative and realistic sustainable development plans for a local district in Hong Kong. Students will have ample opportunities to practise and refine their questionnaire design, survey, analysis, communication, urban design and presentation techniques and skills.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

**URBP6865. Dissertation (24 credits) (Capstone experience)**

The candidate shall present a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words no later than June 30 in the final year of study. The dissertation must be related to the candidate's area of specialization and to the optional specializations selected. The examiners may prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

01 Aug 2017