

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Contemporary Urbanism
Level	3
Reference No. (<i>showing level</i>)	LTP 3.415 CUR
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 40 Student managed learning hours: 110
Pre-requisite learning	Successful completion of level 2 units
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Dr Phil Pinch
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Urban, Environment and Leisure Studies
Short Description	This unit explores the ways in which cities are being conceptualised in the 21 st Century and the cultural origins of the idea of the modern city. It examines contemporary theories and looks at historical ideas about the role and functions of the city. The extent to which intervention is possible and desirable is discussed.
Aims	<p>The aim of this unit is to enable students to understand emerging ideas about the role and function of the city in the 21st Century. Each year different perspectives will be examined. Perspectives may include:</p> <p>* Environmentalism: Conceptualizing the Sustainable City Environmental concerns are now routine parts of urban regulation, management and planning. This perspective will examine attempts to conceptualize 'sustainable city futures' both as regulatory systems and as consequences for the future form of cities and the nature of urban life.</p> <p>* Governing the City This perspective on contemporary urbanism will explore the importance of legal systems on the form and management of the city. Changes in systems of representation, of the constitution of local authorities, of the nature and extent of legal control, not only of buildings and public works but, also public assembly, licensing and taxation and regulation of utilities all affect the city and these dynamics will be explored.</p> <p>* Images of the city in the arts One of the strongest and most vivid strands of our ideas and images of the contemporary city comes not from professional and academic urban analysis but from the more direct and personal traditions of the arts and mass media. This part of the unit aims to introduce the student to this substantial body of work and criticism, and develop their ability to understand and critically respond to it and realise the importance of this to professional and technical urbanism.</p>
Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and understanding of recent trends in city development • understand contemporary urban issues • understand the relationships between the planning system and the city. <p>Intellectual Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce convincing arguments in writing to support a particular set of views about contemporary urbanism • identify and offer a critique of the urban context of various perspectives outside the professional planning activity offer for

	<p>professional activity and awareness</p> <p>Practical Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery of analytical and critical commentary • ability to reference an appropriate depth and breath of literature • ability to develop a coherent structure and in-depth level of understanding of relevant issues • high quality presentational skills • clarity of thought <p>Transferable Skills:</p> <p>Students will develop in cross disciplinary work, critical analysis of published academic material, problem analysis and solving, researching a set of theoretical ideas, on-line searches.</p>
Employability	<p>This unit prepares students for employability by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drawing on material and resources from the field of contemporary urbanism with particular reference to key perspectives against a backdrop of social, economic and political change, and encouraging students to engage with this material • introducing students to the current issues and debates within contemporary urbanism • engaging with the role and function of the city today. • enabling students to relate to and interact effectively with individuals and groups.
Teaching and learning pattern	<p>The unit will be delivered by lectures, seminars and workshops. Some visits may also be arranged. Visiting staff are also expected to contribute to the unit. Each perspective will be presented over three weeks with sessions at the end of the unit for tutorials and revision.</p>
Indicative content	<p>Environmentalism: Conceptualizing the Sustainable City</p> <p>This first part of the unit will introduce students to the study and analysis of the concept of the sustainable city from a contemporary viewpoint. The sessions will consider the sustainable city from theoretical perspectives, policy developments and implementation aspects. The three-week session will consist of a mix of lectures, and student orientated discussions where specific issues will be discussed and debated. These sessions aim to prepare the student for undertaking his or her own individual study for the associated coursework.</p> <p>Governing the City</p> <p>This part of the unit will explore the importance of legal systems on the form and management of the city. Changes in systems of representation, of the constitution of local authorities, of the nature and extent of legal control (not only of buildings and public works but also public assembly, licensing and taxation and regulation of utilities) all affect the city and these dynamics will be explored.</p> <p>Images of the city in the arts</p> <p>Knowledge of cities is frequently achieved through quantification. Facts and figures about cities, such as population levels, social characteristics, economic indicators, traffic flows and so on, can be compiled, analysed and compared. But the city is more than the sum of such indicators. There is also an <i>expressive</i> side to city life. Different cities evoke different feelings, there is a <i>felt intensity</i> to city life, as large numbers of people live and work in close proximity and negotiate their differences, and as people can be moved by the sheer physicality of the city, its symbolic contrasts, as well as its rhythmic movements and everyday encounters. Such feelings are not easily recorded, yet remain an important feature of city life. This part of the course critically examines a range of media which begin to capture this expressive side of city living.</p>
Assessment <i>Elements & weightings</i>	<p>One 3000 word essay comprising 100% of the unit mark.</p>
Indicative Sources <i>(Reading lists)</i>	<p>Allmendinger, P and Chapman, M (eds) (1999) <u>Planning Beyond 2000</u>, Wiley, Chichester</p>

	<p>Barton, H (ed) (2000) <u>Sustainable Communities</u>, Earthscan</p> <p>Bell, S & Morse, S (1999) <u>Sustainability Indicators</u>, Earthscan</p> <p>Blowers, A (ed) (1993) <u>Planning for a Sustainable Future</u>, Earthscan, London</p> <p>Blowers, A & Evans B (eds) (1997) <u>Town Planning into the 21st Century</u>, Routledge</p> <p>Breheny, M (ed) (1992) <u>Sustainable Development and Urban Form</u>, Pion, London</p> <p>Buckingham-Hatfield, S & Evans, B (eds) (1996) <u>Environmental Planning and Sustainability</u>, Wiley, London</p> <p>Blowers, A & Evans B (eds) (1997) <u>Town Planning into the 21st Century</u>, Routledge</p> <p>Cherry, G (1996) <u>Town Planning in Britain since 1900</u>, Blackwell, Oxford</p> <p>Douglass, M (1998) <u>Cities for Citizens</u>, Wiley</p> <p>Fainstain, S (1994) <u>The City Builders</u>, Blackwell, Oxford</p> <p>Hall, P (1997) <u>Cities for Tomorrow</u>, Blackwell, Oxford</p> <p>Paddison, R (ed) (2000) <u>Handbook of Urban Studies</u>, Sage</p> <p>Piles, S., Brook, C and Mooney, G (eds) (1999) <u>Unruly Cities</u>, Routledge</p> <p>Massey, M., Allen, J and Pile, S (eds) (1999) <u>City Worlds</u>, Routledge,</p> <p>Dear, M J (2000) <u>The Postmodern Urban Condition</u>, Blackwell, Oxford</p> <p>Sandercock, L (1998) <u>Towards Cosmopolis</u>, Wiley, London</p> <p>Jukes, P (1990) <u>A Shout in the Street</u>, Faber and Faber, London</p>
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