

## Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Urban Change and Policy
Level	3
Reference No. ( <i>showing level</i> )	LGE 3.428
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 or equivalent
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 investigates the complexities of urban policy and theoretical attempts to conceptualize processes of urban change and the urban policy process. The unit is not focused on the procedural mechanisms of urban policy funding and delivery. Instead, it seeks to examine the changing political and ideological underpinnings of urban policy interventions over time, and their relationship to socio-economic change within cities and urban systems.
Aims	The unit aims to provide students with a theoretical framework for understanding the changing socio-economic character and functioning of cities and urban systems. This is then related to contrasting phases of urban policy and the political and ideological constructs which have informed their formulation and delivery mechanisms. Particular emphasis is placed upon contemporary processes of urban change and the challenges these present for urban policy. The unit is primarily focused on urban change and policy within British cities.
Learning Outcomes	<p><b>Knowledge and Understanding:</b></p> <p>All students are expected to develop an understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the changing character and phases of urban policy in post-war Britain, and attempts to conceptualize these shifts.</li> <li>the social, economic and political forces and processes which have shaped and informed urban policy interventions through time.</li> <li>the process of urban change and restructuring within contemporary cities and urban systems, and the challenges these present for urban policy and city governance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Intellectual Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ability to engage with contemporary concerns about the future of cities, urban living and urban policy</li> <li>ability to outline and evaluate ideas and issues discussed during the lecture sessions in a clear manner.</li> </ul> <p><b>Practical Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ability to provide a structured, focused and well argued response to an essay question</li> <li>appropriate use of academic texts and papers through referencing of key authors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transferable Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ability to evaluate and utilise conceptual ideas and concepts</li> <li>essay writing and oral communication .</li> </ul>
Employability	<p>This unit prepares students for employability by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>drawing on material and resources from the urban policy field with particular reference to urban change against a backdrop of social, economic and political change, and encouraging students to engage with this material</li> <li>introducing students to the impact of urban change and associated</li> </ul>

	<p>issues in a comparative context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enabling students to relate to and interact effectively with individuals and groups.</li> </ul>
Teaching and learning pattern	<p>The unit is focused around a series of key note lectures and seminars. Appropriate video presentations, linked to focused small group discussions, also form part of the learning programme. Students are encouraged to engage in academic debate and be active in their learning.</p>
Indicative content	<p>Part one: Transitions in urban policy The first part of the lecture programme traces through the changing character of urban policy interventions in Britain. It will investigate the relationship between such policy shifts and wider social, economic and political processes. This part of the lecture programme also examines theoretical attempts to understand and conceptualize transitions to cities, urban policy and urban governance.</p> <p>Part two: City futures and urban policy Part two of the lecture programme focuses on the changing character of contemporary city economies and city living. It seeks to provide a framework for understanding some of the major challenges and transitions which confront cities in the new millennium and associated structures of governance and urban policy. The unit concludes by assessing whether contemporary urban policy can meet the challenges raised by contemporary processes of urban change and restructuring.</p>
Assessment <i>Elements &amp; weightings</i>	<p>Two essays of 1,500 words. Each essay contributes 50% of the total unit assessment.</p>
Indicative Sources <i>(Reading lists)</i>	<p>Oatley, N (ed) (1998) <u>Cities, Economic Competition and Urban Policy</u>, Paul Chapman, London</p> <p>Allen, J., Massey, D and Pryke, M (eds) (1999) <u>Unsettling Cities</u>, Routledge, London</p> <p>Pile, S., Brook, C and Mooney, G (eds) (1999) <u>Unruly Cities?</u>, Routledge, London.</p> <p>Social Exclusion Unit (2001) <u>A new Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal</u>, HMSO</p> <p>Urban Task Force (2000) <u>Towards an Urban Renaissance</u>, DETR (www.detr.gov.uk)</p> <p>Knox, P and Pinch, S.P (2001) <u>Urban Social Geography</u>, (4th ed), Prentice Hall, London</p>