

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Code / Title** : HS3004 Cities and Urban Life

**Pre-requisites** : HS1001 Person and Society  
HS2001 Classical Social Theory  
HS2002 Doing Social Research

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### Course Aims

In this course, the aim is to explore the ways in which cities and urbanism have become central to our understandings of modern life.

The course is divided into 3 main parts. The first part introduces main themes in urban studies, such as infrastructure, political-economy of cities, sustainable development, and governance. The second part critically studies these themes in more detail, through the lens of urban design, inequality, urbanization in the Global South, citizenship, urban density and mobility. The third part invites students to explore 2 contemporary questions around urbanism: (1) How do cities learn? (2) What would the future of cities look like?

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the urbanization process and identify how cities develop, function and interact with each other and various social systems
2. Identify and discuss key contemporary debates around urbanization and urban development
3. Identify characteristics of urban transformations in different parts of the world
4. Explain how cities have used experimental methods to urbanize and solve specific urban problems

### Course Content

Week 1: Introduction to the course

Key concepts: urbanism, urban planning, urbanization, “cities”

Week 2: Infrastructure

Key concepts: infrastructure, public services, social and technological systems

Week 3: Sustainability

Key Concepts: sustainable development, sustainability, climate change

Week 4: Financialization

Key Concepts: Neo-liberalism, financial markets, capitalism, welfare systems, deregulation, the global banking hub

Week 5: Governance

Key Concepts: the nation-state, governance, security and threat

Week 6: How do cities learn?

Guest Lecture/Film Screening

Key Concepts: community, placemaking, heritage, nostalgia

Week 7: Inequality

Key Concepts: income inequality, dispossession, poverty, politics at the margins (gender, race and religion)

Week 8: The Global South

Key Concepts: Planetary gentrification, colonialism

Week 9: Migration and Citizenship

Key Concepts: global capital, migration, labour, citizenship, politics, mobilization

Week 10: Density – Land & Housing

Key Concepts: socialism, social housing, urban accumulation, speculative urbanism, urban planning

Week 11: Mobility

Key Concepts: transportation, public transport, transport policy

Week 12: Design and “Spectacle”

Key Concepts: the urban spectacle, mega projects, city branding, soundscapes, affect

Week 13: What would the future of cities look like?

Guest Lecture/Film Screening

Key Concepts: dystopia/utopia, smart cities, digital futures, futures thinking, redistribution

**Course Assessment**

CA1	Class participation	: 10%
CA2	Group Project	: 40%
	Final Examination	: 50%
	<b>Total</b>	----- <b>100%</b>