

Module Outline

Module Code : GES1026/GESS1019
Module Title : Urban Planning in Singapore
Semester : Semester 1, Academic Year 2022/2023
Faculty : NUS Business School
Department : Real Estate

Instructor(s)

Assistant Professor Wang Xize (wang.xize@nus.edu.sg)

Overview

This module aims to give students an understanding of the nature of urban planning, basic planning models and theories, and their applications. Urban planning will be discussed, in the context of national development, urbanization and globalization, as an important force shaping modern human settlements. In Singapore, urban planning is also an important policy instrument to achieve the city-state's sustainable development goals. The module will include a study of the institutional aspects of planning, and will discuss issues of plan implementation, the major challenges, constraints and opportunities. Major topics to be covered include: planning history and theory (planning history and pioneers, utopian planning concepts); planning practice in Singapore (strategic planning, land use planning, development control); and selected specific topics of planning (participation, transportation, and heritage conservation). The context of Singapore will provide the backdrop for discussion and critical thinking of the application of theories and principles.

Learning Outcomes

Key learning objectives include:

- understanding the nature of urban planning;
- an appreciation of urban planning system and processes;
- understanding urban planning principles and theories, and their application in the Singapore context.

Module Prerequisite(s)

NIL

Module Preclusion(s)

This module is offered under two codes: GES1026 and GESS1019. Students taking one module code is not permitted to take the other.

General Guide & Reading

Required texts

- **50 Years of Urban Planning in Singapore (2017)**. Heng, Chye Kiang (editor). World Scientific. (E-books available via NUS library website, call number: HT169.12 Hen 2017)
- **The City Reader. 6th edition. (2016)**. LeGates, Richard and Stout, Frederic (editors). Routledge Urban Reader Series. (E-book available via NUS library website, call number: HT151 Cit 2016)

All other reading materials will be posted online.

Tentative Schedule & Outline

Format

The module will be taught with a series of lectures and tutorials. In the lecture sessions, while theories and principles will be introduced, the emphasis will be on application and case studies. A significant part of the course will be devoted to a discussion on planning in Singapore, with a focus on planning system and processes, illustrated with projects and case examples. Students are expected to read widely, with recommended reading materials from books, journals and news articles. The tutorial sessions consist of discussions as well as exercises to guide your group project. Active participation of all students is expected for lectures and tutorials.

| Week | Lecture | Tutorial |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Introduction | |
| 2 | Pioneering planning thoughts | |
| 3 | History of Planning in Singapore | Tutorial 1: introduction, urban challenges and project kick-off |
| 4 | Long-range strategic planning | |
| 5 | Land use planning | Tutorial 2: workshop on searching for up-to-date research on urban issues |
| 6 | Implementation of plans I | |
| Recess | | |
| 7 | Implementation of plans II | Tutorial 3: project topics and plans |
| 8 | Participatory planning | |
| 9 | Globalization and sustainability | Tutorial 4: group project progress and consultation |
| 10 | Heritage conservations | |
| 11 | Transportation I | Tutorial 5: group project presentation and discussion |
| 12 | Transportation II | |
| 13 | Wrap-up and review | |
| Reading Week | | |
| Examination Week (2 weeks) | | |

Assessment

| Components | Weightage |
|--|-------------|
| Weekly quizzes | 5% |
| Group project (Singapore’s urban challenges and evidence-based policy solutions) | 35% |
| Participation | 10% |
| Final exam (open book) | 50% |
| Total | 100% |

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty are essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’ own” (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubt, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>
- <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

About me

Dr. WANG Xize is an assistant professor at the Department of Real Estate of National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also a faculty affiliate of NUS Institute of Real Estate and Urban Studies (IREUS) and NUS Centre for Family and Population Research (CFPR).

He works interdisciplinary in the fields of public policy, urban planning, public health and transportation. His current work focuses on (1) the impact of urban built environment on people’s mental health and well-being, as well as (2) how individuals and policy makers could best mitigate the negative health impacts of the incoming global challenges (e.g., climate change, and aging).

Prior to NUS, he has been a postdoctoral scholar at University of California, Berkeley. He received a Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Development at University of Southern California, a Master in Urban and Regional Planning at University of Minnesota, and a B.E. in Urban Planning and a B.A. in Economics in 2010 at Peking University, where he was also a recipient of China’s National Scholarship.