

Course Outline

Course Code : GES1026/GESS1019
Course Title : Urban Planning in Singapore
Semester : Semester 1, Academic Year 2023/2024
Faculty : Assistant Professor Wang Xize
Department : Real Estate
Email : wang.xize@nus.edu.sg

Overview

This course 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 course 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.

Course Prerequisite(s)

NIL. This course is targeted to all students across Faculties who had no exposure to urban planning and wish to acquire a broad understanding of multiple aspects of urban planning in Singapore.

Course Preclusion(s)

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

General Guide & Reading

Required texts, both are freely available to download from NUS Library.

- **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 course 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. 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.

Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture	Tutorial
1	14 Aug	1. Introduction Course objectives; topics to be covered; tasks and responsibilities; history of cities; what is urban planning.	
2	21 Aug	2. Pioneering planning thoughts Garden cities & New Towns movement, Radiant cities; Death and life of Great American cities.	
3	28 - 29 Aug	3. History of Planning in Singapore Raffles Town Plan, Singapore Improvement Trust, early planning efforts after independence, concept plans and master plans since 1991	Tutorial 1 Introduction, Urban Challenges and Project kick-off
4	4 - 5 Sep	4. Long-range strategic planning Singapore's urban planning system, long-range plan framework and formulations, recent concept/long-term plans	
5	11 - 12 Sep	5. Land use planning Planning areas and boundaries, master plan making, recent master plans	Tutorial 2 Workshop on searching for up-to-date research on urban issues
6	18 - 19 Sep	6. Implementation of plans I From plans to reality, development control, Government Land Sales,	
R	23 Sep – 1 Oct	Recess Week	
7	2 - 3 Oct	7. Implementation of plans II Land betterment charges, planning for residential towns	Tutorial 3 Project topics selection and feedbacks
8	9 - 10 Oct	8. Participatory planning	

		Planning models, defining participatory planning, participation planning models	
9	16 - 17 Oct	9. Heritage conservations Defining urban heritage, selecting conservation areas, key areas and guidelines, implementation strategies	Tutorial 4 Group project progress and consultation
10	23 - 24 Oct	10. Transportation I Concepts and mobility trends, land transport planning basics	
11	30 - 31 Oct	11. Transportation II Singapore's land transport plans, sustainable transport policies in Singapore	Tutorial 5 Group project presentation and discussion
12	6 - 7 Nov	12. Wrap-up and review Student feedbacks, course review, tips for final exam, timeline for the rest of semester, concluding remarks, Q&A	
13	13 Nov	Deepavali, no class	
RD	18 – 24 Nov	Reading Week	
E	25 Nov – 9 Dec	Examination (2 WEEKS)	

Assessment

Components	Weightage
Weekly quizzes	5%
Group project <i>(Singapore's urban challenges and evidence-based policy solutions)</i>	35%
Participation	10%
Final exam (open-book)	50%

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is 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, including AI tools like ChatGPT.

In this regard, representing an AI's output as your own work is plagiarism. Improper uses of AI tools which can be construed as plagiarism include, but are not limited, to the following:

- a) Generating an output and presenting it as your own work
- b) Generating an output, paraphrasing it and then presenting it as your own work
- c) Processing an original source not created by yourself to plagiarize it (*e.g. using an AI paraphrasing tool to disguise someone else's original work*)

The University and School will not condone plagiarism. If you have used an AI tool to complete any assigned work, in whole or in part, you must acknowledge it at the end of the assignment. Your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is entirely your own work. You have the obligation to declare when it is not. 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), NUS Cities, 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.