

## Course Outline

**Course Code** : GESS1019  
**Course Title** : Urban Planning in Singapore  
**Semester** : Semester 1, Academic Year 2025/26  
**Faculty** : Asst Prof Wang Xize  
**Department** : Real Estate  
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### 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

### Course Preclusion(s)

Nil

### 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.

Week	Date	Topic	Activity
1	13 Aug	<b>Introduction</b>  Course objectives; topics to be covered; tasks and responsibilities; history of cities; what is urban planning.	
2	20 Aug	<b>Pioneering planning thoughts</b>  Garden cities & New Towns movement, Radiant cities; Death and life of Great American cities.	
3	27 Aug	<b>History of Planning in Singapore</b>  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	3 Sep	<b>Long-range strategic planning</b>  Singapore's urban planning system, long-range plan framework and formulations, recent concept/long-term plans	
5	10 Sep	<b>Land use planning</b>  Planning areas and boundaries, master plan making, recent master plans	Tutorial 2 - Workshop on searching for up-to-date research on urban issues
6	17 Sep	<b>Implementation of plans I</b>  From plans to reality, development control, Government Land Sales,	
<b>20 – 28 Sep</b>		<b>RECESS WEEK</b>	
7	1 Oct	<b>Implementation of plans II</b>  Land betterment charges, planning for residential towns	One-page proposal due
8	8 Oct	<b>Participatory planning</b>  Planning models, defining participatory planning, participation planning models	Tutorial 3 - Project topics selection and feedback
9	15 Oct	<b>Heritage conservations</b>  Defining urban heritage, selecting conservation areas, key areas and guidelines, implementation strategies	
10	22 Oct <i>Deepavali – 20 Oct</i>	<b>Transportation I</b> Concepts and mobility trends, land transport planning basics	Tutorial 4 - Group project progress and consultation

	<b>NUS Well-being Day – 21 Oct</b>		
11	29 Oct	<b>Transportation II</b>  Singapore's land transport plans, sustainable transport policies in Singapore	
12	5 Nov	<b>Sustainable Development</b>  Definition and measurement of sustainability, sustainable developments in Singapore.	Tutorial 5 - Group project presentation and discussion
13	12 Nov	<b>Course review (wrap-up)</b>	<i>Project slides due before presentation</i>  <i>Project report due (readings week)</i>
	<b>15 – 21 Nov</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	
	<b>22 Nov – 6 Dec</b>	<b>EXAMINATION (2 WEEKS)</b>	

### Assessment

Assessment Components	Weightage (%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Project</li> </ul>	35
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in Tutorials</li> </ul>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz</li> </ul>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Examination (E-Exam; Open Book)</li> </ul>	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### 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.

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s 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), 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.