



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Sustainable cities and communities (Tvarūs miestai ir bendruomenės)	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Dr. Dalia Čiupailaitė-Višnevskā	Vilnius University Faculty of Philosophy, Universiteto str. 9, LT-01513 Vilnius, tel. (8 5) 266 7600, el. p. fsf@fsf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First (Bachelor)	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face and individual work	1 semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: No	Co-requisites (if relevant): No

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	135	48	87

Purpose of the course unit		
Aim of this course is to familiarize students with challenges, changes, and policies surrounding urbanization and urban growth, and their connections to environmental and sustainability issues in urban settings; also, to introduce them with social, cultural, and spatial dimensions of these challenges and policies, as well as the social aspect of sustainability in urban societies, emphasizing resilience, equality, and inclusion.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Will know and understand the concepts and theories applied in urban and community sustainability studies.	Lectures; Tests; Analysing and discussing reading materials.	Active participation during the seminars; Tests during semester; Exam: group research project: oral presentation and written report.
Will be able to apply concepts and theories of urban and community sustainability studies to analyse the real-world cases.	Analysis of real-world examples during the seminars. Group research project.	
Will be able to independently and in groups implement research.	Group research project.	

Will be able to find and critically evaluate scientific literature and secondary data, select relevant methodology for research, devise methods, collect and analyse data.		
Will be able to constructively work in an international team.	Seminar discussions and activities; Group research project.	
Will be able communicate research findings in oral and written form. prepare oral and written communication	Presentation for the seminar about inclusive cities. Written report of the group research project. Presentation of the group research.	

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hour total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction to the concepts of urban sustainability.	2		2				4	1	VMA: Test to to consolidate knowledge of the concepts learned in class.
2. Urban planning and social justice; Sustainability and Urban Governance.	4		2				6	1	VMA: Video and tests to to consolidate knowledge of the concepts learned in class.
3. Urban political economy and urban structural transformations	6		2				8	4	VMA: Test to to consolidate knowledge of the concepts learned in class. Checker, Melissa. 2011. „Wiped Out by the “Greenwave”: Environmental Gentrification and the Paradoxical Politics of Urban Sustainability“, City & Society, Vol. 23, Issue 2, pp. 210–229
4. The conceptualisation of community and community resilience	6		2				8	5	VMA: Video and tests to to consolidate knowledge of the concepts learned in class. Klinenberg, Eric. 2018. Palaces for the people: how social infrastructure can help fight inequality, polarization, and the decline of civic life. New York, “A place to gather” or “Healthy bonds”
5. Public participation in urban planning, community involvement	4						4	3	VMA: Video and tests to to consolidate knowledge of the concepts learned in class.

									Arnstein, S. R. 1969. A Ladder Of Citizen Participation. Journal of the American Institute of Planners, 35(4), 216–224. https://doi.org/10.1080/01944366908977225
6. Everyday urban life and sustainability: Housing, urban mobility.	4		2				6	3	VMA: Video and tests to consolidate knowledge of the concepts learned in class. Readings on sustainable mobility.
7. Inclusive city and urban users.	4						4		
8. Group research project			8				8	70	Analysis of a selected urban sustainability case.
Total	30		18				48	87	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Active work during the seminars	30	Last seminar	Active engagement in discussions and textual analysis, offering insightful contributions, critically evaluating arguments and theories, and posing meaningful questions. Demonstrating creativity in proposing solutions to the issues raised. Participation in seminars is required. Non participation reduces the grade.
Tests on course platform.	30	During seminar	Correctly answering test questions.
Group assignment, implemented incrementally during the second half of the semester, which integrates the development of teamwork, subject-specific, and analytical competencies. Students will complete the assignment over a four-week period. Four interim tasks will be provided, with each group member required to make an individual contribution. Together, these tasks will form a comprehensive analysis of a selected urban sustainability case.	40	During semester and at the end of semester	Written report: Research topic and question are grounded in the review of scientific literature. Developed methodology and collected sufficient data. Conclusions drawn from the collected data, related to reviewed literature. Presentation during the seminar: clarity, conciseness.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
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Required reading				
Elmqvist, T., Bai, X., Frantzeskaki, N., Griffith, C., Maddox, D., McPhearson, T., Parnell, S., Romero-Lankao, P., Simon, D. and Watkins, M. (eds.)	2018	Urban Planet: Knowledge towards Sustainable Cities		Cambridge University Press
Checker, Melissa	2011	„Wiped Out by the “Greenwave”: Environmental Gentrification and the Paradoxical Politics of Urban Sustainability“	City & Society, Vol. 23, Issue 2, pp. 210–229	
Arnstein, S. R..	1969	A Ladder Of Citizen Participation.	Journal of the American Institute of Planners, 35(4), 216–224.	
Ronald K. Vogel (ed.)	2024	Handbook of Urban Politics and Policy.		Edward Elgar Publishing.
Fainstein, Susan	2010	The Just City		Cornell University Press
Klinenberg, Eric	2018	Palaces for the people: how social infrastructure can help fight inequality, polarization, and the decline of civic life		Crown
Low, Setha	2023	Why Public Space Matters.		Oxford University Press
Burton, E.	2000	The compact city: Just compact? A preliminary analysis.	Urban Studies 37(1): 1969–2006.	
Recommended reading				
Harvey, D.	1973	Social Justice and the City		University of Georgia Press
Blokland, T.	2017	Community as Urban Practice		Polity