GSE 830

Sustainable Urban Regions

S2 Evening 2015

Department of Geography and Planning

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor and Lecturer
Robyn Dowling
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Contact via Email
W3A 417
By appointment. Please email to arrange.

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MEnvEd or PGDipEnvEd or PGCertEnvEd or MEngMgt or MEnvMgt or
PGCertEnvMgt or MEnvStud or PGDipEnvStud or MEnvPlan or MEnvSc or MSusDev or
PGDipSusDev or PGCertSusDev or MWldMgt or PGDipWldMgt or PGCertWldMgt or MEnv or
PGDipEnv or PGCertEnv or MClimCh or MSc in Remote Sensing and GIS or PGDipSc in
Remote Sensing and GIS or PGCertSc in Remote Sensing and GIS or GradDipEnv or
GradCertSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertSIA or GradDipSIA or GradCertEnvPlan or
MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines the social, economic and environmental challenges associated with
developing sustainable cities and urban regions internationally. Opportunities and barriers to
implementing more sustainable urban management and planning practices are explored.
Students undertake their own case study; critically assessing response strategies and
developing their own sustainability plans.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are
available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

> Understand the differences and similarities of processes and governance that shape
> change in diverse urban regions;

Develop a foundation in sustainable planning with a focus on strategic issues;

Be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of strategies for managing and developing urban regions;

Compile and analysis a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of sustainable urban planning

Give succinct and informative oral presentations

Demonstrate understanding of contemporary transport policies and futures

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Patterns of Urbanisation	20%	16 August 2014
Essay on smart transport	35%	28 September
Smart Transport Presentation	5%	29 September
Assessment of City Plans	25%	3 November 2015
Workshop Preparation	15%	Weekly

Patterns of Urbanisation

Due: **16 August 2014**
Weighting: **20%**

1. Report on urbanisation patterns in two continents based on UN data. 1000 words plus maps, graphs, and tables.

Understanding urbanisation patterns and prospects are key to planning sustainable cities. For this first assessment task you are required to prepare a short report on urbanisation trends between 1980 and 2050 for two continents. More guidance, including marking criteria, will be given in Week 1 and made available on iLearn.

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Essay on smart transport

Due: **28 September**

Weighting: **35%**

*Technology and the sharing economy have converged to produce a number of new forms of transport, including, but not confined to, car sharing, Uber, RideShare, bike sharing, autonomous cars, electric vehicles and the like . Write an essay that critically assesses the sustainability potential and planning implications of **one** of these.*

You are not expected to conduct primary research for this essay. Rather, you are to use academic and grey literature to build your argument. The reference list below is a starting point, though additional references will also be expected.

Reference List

Available via iLearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Smart Transport Presentation

Due: **29 September**

Weighting: **5%**

In this assessment you will present the findings of your Smart Transport essay in class.

The presentation should adhere to the 'Three Minute Thesis' (3MT) guidelines: 3 minutes and only one powerpoint slide. Examples of 3MT can be found at: https://www.vitae.ac.uk/events/three-minute-thesis-competition

Presentations will be peer evaluated using the 3MT judging criteria.

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Assessment of City Plans

Due: **3 November 2015**
Weighting: **25%**

The goal here is to critically assess the content and approach of city-wide sustainability plans.

You will produce a written report of 1500 words, including references.

Throughout the first half of the semester you will be introduced to a number of different cities as case study examples. Use these discussions, and your wider reading, to help you choose a city. You should then collate and analyse sustainability plans for that city. The individual report you produce should include:

- the institutional context
- the scale of planning
- key mechanisms used
- what elements (e.g. transport, land use, climate change, housing, etc.) are defined as critical to sustainability*.*

Tips for assignment 1:

- Include an executive summary, introduction, a body (main argument) and a conclusion (answer the question).

- Consider the use of tables and diagrams to summarise your information.

- Comply with the word count and condense your work to present a concise argument.

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Workshop Preparation

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **15%**

Each workshop/tutorial will require preparation before class - either reading or engagement with other material. You are required to provide evidence of preparation in the form of an iLearn blog post specific to the material each week.

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Delivery and Resources

Classes

Classes are held on **Tuesdays** commencing at 6:00pm and concluding at 9:00pm. GSE830 is only available in internal mode, hence attending classes is necessary to maximise the learning outcomes. Classes will consist of both lectures and a variety of learning activities spread over the three hour block.

Workload Expectation

It is generally expected that students will commit at least 3 hours per week per credit point in their studies. Thus, in addition to attending weekly classes for 3 hours, students are expected to complete appropriate reading, research and other activities equivalent to at least 9 hours per week. Thus the total workload for this unit should be considered as a minimum of 12 hours per week throughout the semester.

Technology

GSE830 makes extensive use of iLearn for both resources and assessment. Resources for weekly workshops, readings, blog questions are on iLearn, as well as readings for assignments. Turnitin will be used for submitted assignments. Access to the internet and regular access to the unit's website is essential for GSE830.

Unit Schedule

Date	Lecture	Workshop	Assessment/Homework
28 July	Introduction: Defining Sustainable Cities in the 21st Century	Overview of Assessment and Learning Activities	Allocation of cities for assessment 1
4 August	Planetary Urbanisation: Living in an Urban World	Cities, Urban Theory, and Urban Planning	Submit blog post on reading before class

11 August	Uses of Data in Planning for Sustainable Urbanism	Describing Patterns of Urbanisation	Submit blog post before class
18 August	Transport and Sustainability	Transport Policy (T)	Assessment 1 due 16 August
25 August	Shared Mobility	Exploring Shared Mobility	Blog post on shared mobility
1 September	Public Transport	Public Transport Accessibility Using SNAMUTS	Blog post on SNAMUTS
8 September	Active Transport	3MT Guidelines	No blog post
14-27	**SEPTEMBER**	**NO**	**CLASSES**
29 September	3MT Competition	3MT Competition	Smart Transport Essay and Presentation Due
6 October	Strategic Planning	No workshop	No blog post
13 October	Land Use: Compact Cities	Debates about Density (T)	Blog post on tutorial readings
20 October	Technology: Smart Cities	Smart Cities from the Ground Up	Blog post on Smart Cities report
27 October	Behaviour Change	Carbon Counters, Ecological Footprints	Blog post on carbon counters
3 Nov	Overview		Assessment of City Plan report due

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and

decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the differences and similarities of processes and governance that shape change in diverse urban regions;
- Develop a foundation in sustainable planning with a focus on strategic issues;
- Be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of strategies for managing and developing urban regions;
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Assessment tasks

- Patterns of Urbanisation
- Essay on smart transport
- Smart Transport Presentation
- Assessment of City Plans
- Workshop Preparation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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- Compile and analysis a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of sustainable urban planning
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- Assessment of City Plans
- Workshop Preparation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

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PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

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PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of strategies for managing and developing urban regions;

- Compile and analysis a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of sustainable urban planning

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Assessment tasks

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- Smart Transport Presentation

- Assessment of City Plans

- Workshop Preparation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in

relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

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Changes from Previous Offering

This unit is being taught by a new staff member in 2015 and has been extensively revised. The pivotal differences relate to the emphasis on global as well as Australian examples.