GEOP703

Understanding Sustainable Urban Regions

S1 External 2019

Department of Geography and Planning

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Lecturer Dr. Andrew Burridge andrew.burridge@mq.edu.au Contact via andrew.burridge@mq.edu.au W3A 435 By appointment
Credit points 4
Prerequisites Admission to MRes
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;

Demonstrate understanding of contemporary concepts and policies of smart cities and develop a critical understanding of appropriate methods to conduct research on urbanisation

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

urban regions;

Compile and analyse a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of planning sustainable cities and regions;

Ability to work as a team, address contemporary problems of cities and regions, and give succinct and informative oral presentations

General Assessment Information

Assessment requirements and submission

Detailed requirements and marking rubrics for each assessment are available from the iLearn site. All individual written assignments should be submitted online to Turnitin via the relevant links provided in iLearn. You are **not** required to submit a hardcopy of any assignments or include a cover sheet.

Assessment extensions and late penalties

Circumstances that affect your ability to complete assignments by the deadline must be discussed with the convenor (Andrew) prior to the due date. Extensions will be granted only in unforeseen or exceptional circumstances according to the University Special Consideration policy. Students must apply online via AskMQ and provide appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate).

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Assessment feedback

All feedback for assignments will be made available online. The grade will be in the form of a letter as consistent with University policy (HD, D, Cr, P, F) alongside written feedback. Assessment feedback will be returned within 3 weeks.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Methods for Urban Research	15%	No	Monday 18 March 2019 11:59pm
Online presentation	15%	No	Week 3-12
Assessment of City Plans	25%	No	29 April 2019 11:59pm
Major Essay	35%	No	Friday 7 June 2019 5:00pm
Online participation	10%	No	Week 3-12

Methods for Urban Research

Due: **Monday 18 March 2019 11:59pm**
Weighting: **15%**

Report on methods for conducting research concerning urbanisation patterns. 1000 words plus maps, graphs, and tables.

Understanding effective methods for researching urbanisation patterns and urban sustainability. For this first assessment task you are required to prepare a short report on positives and shortfalls of applied methods of research and how you would apply these in a specified context.

More guidance, including marking criteria, will be given in Week 1 and made available on iLearn.

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Online presentation

Due: **Week 3-12**
Weighting: **15%**

Throughout the semester you are introduced to a range of contemporary topics that are connected to the sustainability of cities and regions. In this assignment, you will work with other classmates to develop a group presentation that demonstrates your understanding and ability to communicate one of the topics by analysing relevant concepts and incorporating real life local or international example(s). You are encouraged to be creative in your presentation and are welcome to use unconventional presentation techniques such as debates, role plays, audience interaction, skits etc.

Group presentation guidelines:

- The length of your group presentation will not normally **exceed 30 minutes**.
- Group presentation should be structured in such a way that **all students will get an equal chance to demonstrate their knowledge** and **individual performance can be measured**.
- **50% mark will be allocated to group performance** (understanding of the topic, effectiveness of group presentation with clarity, coordination and creativity) and **50% mark will be allocated to individual performance** (quality of individual contribution to the group presentation).

Further details will be made available during class and through iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Compile and analyse a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of planning sustainable cities and regions;
- Ability to work as a team, address contemporary problems of cities and regions, and give succinct and informative oral presentations

Assessment of City Plans

Due: **29 April 2019 11:59pm**
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 outside Australia. 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. nature, land use, migration, mobility, tourism, housing, climate change, etc.) are defined as critical to sustainability.

Tips for Assessment of City Plans:

- 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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Major Essay

Due: **Friday 7 June 2019 5:00pm**
Weighting: **35%**

Topic: Smart Cities

You have been introduced to the concept of smart cities in Week 3 lecture. Throughout the Unit, you have been introduced to different concepts and issues related to technology, non-humans, mobility and shared economy. These concepts push us to find new sustainable practice to build on smart cities. Especially, technology and shared/alternate/diverse economy have converged to produce a number of new forms of mobilities and urban living.

For this essay, you should not limit yourself to the unit lecture contents only. In addition, you are expected to conduct a reasonable amount of literature review that requires a critical analysis of a series of scholarly articles to answer the question:

"What are the sustainability potential and planning implications of technology and/or other disruptive forms of smart practice in cities?"

You are not expected to conduct primary research for this essay. Rather, you are to use academic and grey literature (produced by organizations outside the traditional academic publishing channels) to build your argument.

The reference list available via iLearn is a starting point, though additional references will also be expected.

Submissions requirements:

Word length: **2500 words** (excluding references)

Submit via iLearn using the Turnitin link. Penalties will apply in case of late submissions.

Style: essay, no less than 1.5 line spacing and no smaller than 11pt font.

References: ensure you reference your work. See: http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/undergraduate/academic_skills_quick guides/

You will need to reference approximately 15 academic sources (for example, articles, chapters in edited collections and books).

Reference List - available via iLearn

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Online participation

Due: **Week 3-12**
Weighting: **10%**

Participation in online discussions during the semester. Each discussion forum will remain open for a week. This assessment task is worth 10%.

For weeks 3-12, two questions will be posted relating to the readings set for that week. You are expected to provide a brief 1-2 paragraph response.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop a foundation in sustainable planning with a focus on strategic issues;
- Ability to work as a team, address contemporary problems of cities and regions, and give succinct and informative oral presentations

Delivery and Resources

Classes

Classes are held on **Thursdays** commencing at 6:00pm and concluding at 9:00pm (in Week 1 and Week 13 class may finish earlier). Workshops will consist of both lectures and a variety of learning activities spread over the three hour block. Classes will be recorded and made available online.

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

GEOP830 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 GEOP830.

Unit Schedule

2 August	**Introduction: Welcome and Sustainable cities in the 21st century**	Overview of Assessments, Learning Activities and using data	
9 August	**The ecological potential of cities and regions** (guest lecture: TBC)	Multi-species urban imagination Assignment preparation: Patterns of urbanisation	
16 August	**Volumetric City: subterranean geographies of soil and water** (guest lecture: TBC)	Urban imagination beyond the 'surface bias'	**Patterns of urbanisation due 16 August 5:00pm**
23 August	**Concepts of Smart Cities** (guest lecture: TBC)	What is meant for cities to be 'smart'? Assignment preparation: Assessment of city plans	
30 August	**Mobility of populations in cities and regions** (TBC)	Migration and cities	
6 September	**Cities, tourism and the sharing economy** (TBC)	The implication of Airbnb in cities	
13 September	**Urban resilience** (guest lecture: TBC)	What is meant for cities to be 'resilient'?	**Assessment of City Plans due 13 September 5:00pm**
17-28	**SEPTEMBER**		**NO CLASSES**
2 October	**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**		
4 October	**Geopolitics of real-estate and cities** (guest lecture: TBC)	Urban sprawling and housing affordability Assignment preparation: Major essay	
11 October	**Mobility in smart cities** (guest lecture: TBC)	Active travel, car sharing	

18 October	**Cities, justice and urban gardening** (guest lecture: Dr. Richard Carter-White, Macquarie University)	Urban environmental justice, ecological footprint	
30 October	**Security and Climate Change** (guest lecture: Dr. Richard Carter-White, Macquarie University)	Security, climate change, states of exception	
1 November	**Smart and sustainable urban region, wrap-up**	Follow-up assignment preparation: Major essay	**Major Essay due 8 November 5:00pm**

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources 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;
- Compile and analyse a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of planning sustainable cities and regions;

Assessment tasks

- Methods for Urban Research
- Online presentation
- Assessment of City Plans
- Major Essay
- Online participation

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:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the differences and similarities of processes and governance that shape change in diverse urban regions;
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- Ability to work as a team, address contemporary problems of cities and regions, and give succinct and informative oral presentations

Assessment tasks

- Methods for Urban Research
- Online presentation
- Assessment of City Plans
- Major Essay

- Online participation

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.

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

- Methods for Urban Research
- Online presentation
- Assessment of City Plans
- Major Essay
- Online participation

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.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Demonstrate understanding of contemporary concepts and policies of smart cities and develop a critical understanding of appropriate methods to conduct research on urbanisation
- Be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of strategies for managing and developing urban regions;
- Compile and analyse a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of planning sustainable cities and regions;

Assessment tasks

- Methods for Urban Research
- Online presentation
- Assessment of City Plans
- Major Essay
- Online participation

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 analyse a range of qualitative and quantitative data in support of planning sustainable cities and regions;
- Ability to work as a team, address contemporary problems of cities and regions, and give succinct and informative oral presentations

Assessment tasks

- Methods for Urban Research
- Online presentation
- Assessment of City Plans
- Major Essay
- Online participation

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

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the differences and similarities of processes and governance that shape change in diverse urban regions;
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- Be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of strategies for managing and developing urban regions;

Assessment tasks

- Methods for Urban Research
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