

# URBAN STRATEGIES 1

## Bachelor in Architectural Studies BAS SEP-2023 US1- AS.3.S.A

Area Architecture and Design

Number of sessions: 30

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: THIRD

Number of credits: 6.0

Semester: 1<sup>o</sup>

Category: COMPULSORY

Language: English

Professor: **GREGORIO ASTENGO**

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Gregorio Astengo is an architect and historian. He holds a Ph.D from the Bartlett School of Architecture in London. He is currently working on a Postdoctoral research project at the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta) at ETH Zurich on construction manuals and speculative housing in early modern London.

### CORPORATE EXPERIENCE

Architect, AS Architetti Associati, Italy, 2012 – 2014

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor in Architecture, IE University, Spain, 2020 – Present

Scientific Assistant of Architectural History, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 2019 – Present

Lecturer in Architectural History, New College of the Humanities, UK, 2019 – 2020

Adjunct Professor in Architectural History, Syracuse University, UK, 2018 – 2020

Teaching Associate, Queen Mary (University of London), UK, 2017 – 2019

Postgraduate Teaching Assistant, University College London, UK, 2016 – 2017

### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Ph.D. in Architectural History and Theory, the Bartlett School of Architecture, UK, 2019

Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Architectural Research, the Bartlett School of Architecture, UK, 2014

Master's degree in Architecture, Politecnico di Torino, Italy, 2012

Bachelor's Degree in Architecture, Politecnico di Torino, Italy, 2009

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## **SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**

The course investigates the complex network of cultural, social, political and material narratives that frame and guide our experience of the urban environment. It aims at unfolding some of these aspects by developing the skills necessary to analyse and interpret the city as a system of relationships between people, buildings, cultural realms and normative tools. During the course, students will conduct an analytical exercise over a portion of a city, assigned at the start of term. This assignment, on which students will work throughout the semester, will consist of researching, selecting, interpreting and representing specific morphological, historical and typological characters of the assigned area. In doing so, students will engage with the methodologies and approaches of urban analysis necessary to understand urban and architectural contexts. Alongside this practical task, lectures and seminars will introduce students to some of the conceptual and theoretical approaches that inform urban analysis, in order to understand it as a project in its own right. With a combination of theoretical and practical components, the course ultimately aims at building a body of critical and operative knowledge on the city as a part of a 'toolkit' for the architect and urban planner.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

### **BASIC AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The general objectives and skills that students will develop as a result of the learning process of this specific course are:

- CB1: Students have demonstrated knowledge and an understanding of a given area of study, building upon the foundation of secondary education, supported by advanced texts, and including aspects that engage the latest advances in their area of study.
- CB2: Students know how to apply their knowledge professionally to their work or vocation and possess the competencies that are often demonstrated through elaboration and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.
- CB3: Students can gather and interpret relevant facts (usually within their area of study) in order to make judgments that include reflection on relevant social, scientific, and ethical topics.
- CB4: Students can transmit information, ideas, problems, and solutions to both specialized and non-specialized audiences.
- CB5: Students have developed the necessary learning skills to continue their studies with a high degree of autonomy.
- CG6: Knowledge of the industries, organizations, regulations, and procedures needed in order to transform projects into buildings, and to integrate drawings into the planning process.
- CG7: An understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their contexts, as well as the need to relate buildings and adjacent spaces to needs and to the human scale.

### **SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES**

The specific objectives and skills that students will develop as a result of the learning process of this specific course are:

- CE36: Ability to categorize built and urban heritage and plan conservation efforts.

- CE40: Ability to develop functional programming for buildings and urban spaces.
- CE45: Ability to design and execute urban projects as well as those for urbanization, gardens, and landscape.
- CE46: Ability to apply urban planning regulations and ordinances.
- CE47: Ability to develop environmental and landscape studies, and environmental impact reports.
- CE55: Adequate knowledge of the relationship between cultural patterns and the social responsibilities of the architect.
- CE57: Adequate knowledge of sociology, theory, economics, and urban history.
- CE58: Adequate knowledge of the methodological foundations of urban, territorial, and metropolitan planning.
- CE59: Knowledge of civil, administrative, urbanistic, building and industry regulations relating to professional activities.
- CE62: Knowledge of the mechanisms of preparing and developing urban plans at all scales.

### **TRANSVERSE COMPETENCIES OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The transverse objectives and skills that students will develop as a result of the learning process of this specific course are:

- CT2: Ability to exercise professional behavior in accordance with constitutional principles and ethical values of the respective profession.
- CT3: Manage unforeseen situations with the capacity to respond to changes within organizations.
- CT4: Use disciplinary knowledge to analyze and evaluate current situations.
- CT5: Integrate oneself into interdisciplinary and multicultural teams to achieve common goals in a context of diversity.
- CT6: Work actively at in an international context.

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

The course explores aspects of urban analysis and interpretation. Weekly sessions are dedicated either to developing urban analytical instruments, or to provide tutorials for the assignment (see Program). Specifically, the course will involve the following teaching methods:

- AF1: Workshops and Laboratories.
- AF2: Lectures.
- AF3: Debates and Seminars.
- AF5: Presentation of Work.
- AF9: Individual Study.
- AF10: Preparation of Projects.

<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in</b>
Lectures	20.67 %	31.0 hours
Discussions	27.33 %	41.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	10.0 %	15.0 hours
Group work	20.67 %	31.0 hours
Individual studying	21.33 %	32.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150.0 hours

## **PROGRAM**

### **SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Introduction and Course Overview:

- Program and deadlines
- Objectives and methods
- Resources and data sets

*Book Chapters: Martin Søberg and Anna Hougaard, 'The Project of Mapping', in The Artful Plan. Architectural Drawing Reconfigured, Birkhäuser, Basel 2020 (See Bibliography)*

### **SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Introduction and Course Overview:

- Program and deadlines
- Objectives and methods
- Resources and data sets

### **SESSION 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Lecture and Seminar:

Contents of a City

- Planning practices and its consequences: the grid
- Urban Legislation, Masterplans and Codes

Methods of Urban Analysis

- Selecting a topic of analysis and conducting research on the city
- Developing a position/ argument on the city
- Collecting sources and references and using data sets

B.C.: TBA

### **SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Lecture and Seminar:

## Contents of a City

- Planning practices and its consequences: the grid
- Urban Legislation, Masterplans and Codes

## Methods of Urban Analysis

- Selecting a topic of analysis and conducting research on the city
- Developing a position/ argument on the city
- Collecting sources and references and using data sets

B.C.: TBA

## **SESSION 5 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Exercise: Planning and Planners

*Article: Appropriation, Subdivision, Abstraction: A Political History of the Urban Grid (Log, Fall 2018, No. 44 (Fall 2018), pp. 139-167) (CED)*

## **SESSION 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

25% review: Analytical Focus

- Choice of topic and argument
- Bibliography and data sets
- References

## **SESSION 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

25% review: Analytical Focus

- Choice of topic and argument
- Bibliography and data sets
- References

## **SESSION 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

25% review: Analytical Focus

- Choice of topic and argument
- Bibliography and data sets
- References

## **SESSION 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Lecture and Seminar:

The City as Representation

- Politics of the City
- Cities, Architecture and Urban Artefacts
- City of Images and Images of Cities

Diagrams as Tools of Urban Representation

- What is a diagram / types of diagrams
- Why using diagrams

- How to make diagrams
- In-class exercise

*Book Chapters: Aldo Rossi, The Architecture of the City, MIT Press 1982, pp. 20-61; Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City, MIT Press 1960, pp. 1-13 (See Bibliography)*

## **SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Lecture and Seminar:

The City as Representation

- Politics of the City
- Cities, Architecture and Urban Artefacts
- City of Images and Images of Cities

Diagrams as Tools of Urban Representation

- What is a diagram / types of diagrams
- Why using diagrams
- How to make diagrams
- In-class exercise

## **SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Exercise. The Right to the (Generic) City

*Book Chapters: Rem Koolhaas, 'The Generic City', Monacelli 1995, pp. 1248-1264) (CED  
Article: The Right to the City (The New Left Review 53, 2008, pp. 23-40) (newleftreview.org)*

## **SESSION 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 1 on concept and diagrams

## **SESSION 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 1 on concept and diagrams

## **SESSION 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 1 on concept and diagrams

## **SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

50% review: Concept and Diagrams

- Definition of analytical focus
- Definition and deployment of data sets
- Conceptual diagrams
- Mapping references

## **SESSION 16 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

50% review: Concept and Diagrams

- Definition of analytical focus
- Definition and deployment of data sets
- Conceptual diagrams
- Mapping references

### **SESSION 17 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

50% review: Concept and Diagrams

- Definition of analytical focus
- Definition and deployment of data sets
- Conceptual diagrams
- Mapping references

### **SESSION 18 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Lecture and Seminar:

Urban Ecologies

- Defining Ecology and the City
- Representing a Networked City
- From Diagrams to Maps

Mapping the City

- Strategies of representation
- Objectives of the map
- Examples of thematic maps
- In-class exercise

B.C.: TBA

### **SESSION 19 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Lecture and Seminar:

Urban Ecologies

- Defining Ecology and the City
- Representing a Networked City
- From Diagrams to Maps

Mapping the City

- Strategies of representation
- Objectives of the map
- Examples of thematic maps
- In-class exercise

B.C.: TBA

### **SESSION 20 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Exercise: Representing the City

B.C.: TBA

## **SESSION 21 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 2 on first draft of the map

## **SESSION 22 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 2 on first draft of the map

## **SESSION 23 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

75% review: Map Draft

- Complete first draft of the map
- Research on graphic representation
- Definitive data sets and sources
- Definitive Interpretative position and argument

## **SESSION 24 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

75% review: Map Draft

- Complete first draft of the map
- Research on graphic representation
- Definitive data sets and sources
- Definitive Interpretative position and argument

## **SESSION 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

75% review: Map Draft

- Complete first draft of the map
- Research on graphic representation
- Definitive data sets and sources
- Definitive Interpretative position and argument

## **SESSION 26 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 3 on final draft of the map

## **SESSION 27 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Tutorial 3 on final draft of the map

## **SESSION 28 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

100% review: Finals

- Complete map
- Clear and coherent graphic strategies
- Completed research (data sets, sources, references, bibliography...)
- Clear interpretative argument and critical position



## SESSION 29 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

100% review: Finals

- Complete map
- Clear and coherent graphic strategies
- Completed research (data sets, sources, references, bibliography...)
- Clear interpretative argument and critical position

## SESSION 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

100% review: Finals

- Complete map
- Clear and coherent graphic strategies
- Completed research (data sets, sources, references, bibliography...)
- Clear interpretative argument and critical position

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The main evaluation criteria (70%) will consist of a mapping assignment, with three intermediate evaluations (25%, 50% and 75%) and a final presentation (100%). Although the work will be conducted in group, students will be evaluated individually, based on their respective contribution to the collective work. Additionally, three individual asynchronous exercises will count for 20% of the final grade, and participation to class discussion will contribute a further 10%.

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Exercises	20 %		
Mapping assignment	70 %		
Participation	10 %		

## RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Recommended

- Martin Søberg and Anna Hougaard. (2020). *The Artful Plan: Architectural Drawing Reconfigured*. Birkhäuser. ISBN 3035618747 (Printed)
- Aldo Rossi. *The architecture of the city*. MIT. ISBN 9780262181013 (Digital)

## BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

## **ETHICAL POLICY**

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

