Course guide
290504 - METSOC - Social Metabolism and City

Unit in charge: Vallès School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 740 - DUTP - Department of Urbanism, Territory and Landscape,
756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.
Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (Syllabus 2014).
(Compulsory subject).
Academic year: 2023 ECTS Credits: 5.0 Languages: English

LECTURER
Coordinating lecturer: Marta Serra (THATC) (ENG)
Others: Guest lecturers: Jere Kuzmanic (PhD candidate DUOT).

PRIOR SKILLS
None

REQUIREMENTS
No special habililies are required.

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:
9. Capacity to assess and organize information related to sustainability and architecture.
10. Awareness of the impact that social demand for sustainability has in the architect's fields of action (namely design, building, city and territory) and the need for the architect's role re-definition.
11. Knowledge in the description of the material flows that determine urban metabolism as well as in understanding their relationship with urban spaces.

Generical:
4. Competence in outlining the relationship between sustainability and the urban environment on a theoretical and experimental level.
5. Ability to diagnose urban settings according to sustainability characterization.

Transversal:
6. TEAMWORK: To be able to work as a member of an interdisciplinary team, either as an associate or as a team-leader, so that projects are developed in a pragmatic and responsible manner by setting up goals fitted with the available resources.

7. SOLID USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Proper management and acquisition, structuring, analysis and visualization of data and information in the specified knowledge field; capacity for critical assessment of results and conclusions.
8. (ENG) TERCERA LENGUA: Conocer una tercera lengua, preferentemente el inglés, con un nivel adecuado oral y escrito y en consonancia con las necesidades que tendrán los titulados y tituladas.

Basic:
1. Students will gain and understand knowledge which may be further developed or applied in a research environment.
2. Students will earn skills in clear and non-ambiguous communication of their conclusions, as well as the knowledge and reasoning sustaining them, to expert and non-expert audiences.
3. Students will build a capacity for self-driven and autonomous learning that may empower them in further studies or education.
TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course consists of two main blocks of contents:
1. “Theory and history: a conceptual approach” where lectures and related debates will be conducted.
2. “Qualitative research through analysis of the field” where tasks, assignments and criteria will be presented and accompanied to be developed.

In addition, through autonomous learning and research students must carry out activities aimed at assimilating, analysing, synthesising or extending the contents derived from the lectures together with the required tasks to complete the practical exercises.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the metabolic vision of the city and its sustainability significance as a reference for action. It consists of providing key authors, practices and theoretical concepts of urban metabolism decrease through a long historical review that begins in the nineteenth century and builds a justifying account of ecological urbanism that may be relevant today.

Particular goals consists of:
- To gain an overview of fundamental environmentalist and humanist planners.
- To find in urban history multiple assets to understand and rethink our present.
- To examine the role of the society and the actions of their people regarding the implications in the built environment.
- To reflect about the significance of self-sufficiency, interdependency, spatial justice and the territorial balance of management of resources.
- To identify methods to analyse the socio-spatial conditions of a case study.

STUDY LOAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours large group</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self study</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>64.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours medium group</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total learning time: 125 h
CONTENTS


**Description:**
On the one hand, the course develops through a strong body of theory and history related to ecological and humanist urbanism. Following a chronological sequence, different threads of thinking are presented, by key references, authorships and spatial practices either historical and current. Constantly intertwined and from a wide variety of angles (architecture, urbanism, philosophy, sociology) the series of lectures will offer a kind of tool box that may lead different questions and responses to the way of thinking the city and its implications in social and environmental change.

**Specific objectives:**
- To learn to connect theory and history to contemporary problems and practices.

**Related activities:**
According to the calendar, the lectures are the following:
- Natur Gefühl
- Body and Environment
- City-Nature fusion: the Anarchist roots
- Community and Environment
- City-Region and Decentralization
- Ethnography and architectural design
- Social change and environmental design
- Co-producing the built environment
- Informal Urbanism

**Full-or-part-time:** 22h 30m
Theory classes: 22h 30m

2. Qualitative research through analysis of the field

**Description:**
On the other hand, the course displays three different collaborative exercises to trace links between the theoretical lectures and the reality of the case study. Qualitative research based on key readings, record keeping and participatory observation will allow to understand and rethink the socio-spatial dimension of the place.

**Specific objectives:**
- Train to apply theory and practice regarding a specific case study.

**Related activities:**
According to the calendar, the exercises will be explained, developed delivered as follows:

Exercise 1 - "Situated chronology: a socio-spatial evolution of the place and its agents"
Exercise 2 - "Participatory diagnosis: identifying local perceptions"

**Full-or-part-time:** 22h 30m
Guided activities: 22h 30m

GRADING SYSTEM

Exercise 1 (40%)
Exercise 2 (50%)
Active participation (10%)

RESOURCES
Other resources:
Atenea platform will provide the specific schedule, presentations, specific material and bibliographical references.