

URBAN STUDIES AND SPATIAL PRACTICES PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTION

B.SC REQUIREMENT IN URBAN STUDIES

Human Rights and International Law Program Course List

Course Descriptions

100 LEVEL COURSES

9110101 Introduction to Urban Studies

The main objective of the course is to provide students with the tools to be able to engage in a critical reading of contemporary urban conditions. The city is a material reality as well as a set of relations between people, technologies, media and buildings. What can we learn from studying the city? The urban space is explored with an interdisciplinary approach (using architecture, urban design, sociology, anthropology, geography, literature and visual arts) aiming to uncover the way cities are a result of a complex interaction of social, political and economic forces. In particular students will discuss how political conflicts are not only registered but also operate through the transformation of the urban space. The aim of the course is to develop students' conceptual and practical skills for the critical reading and interpretation of the contemporary spatial regime in Palestine-Israel. Particular attention will thus be given to issues related to social and spatial justice.

9110102 Spatial Practices

Spaces are shaped and transformed not only by official apparatuses and professionals but also by the everyday spatial practices constructed by people. Using different approaches, from anthropology to geography, from empirical observations and urban interventions, from spatial activism to social justice, spatial practices analyses transformation of urban spaces from the point of view of different actors. The course aims at exploring new ways of thinking about geography, citizenship, and community. It is based on a particular conviction that creative practices could positively or negatively impact the identity of urban space and the ways in which spatial areas are made, experienced, and represented; in the spatial practices course students strive to positively engage, critique, and transform contemporary urban life in multiple ways.

200 LEVEL COURSES

9110201 History of City and Society

The historical evolution of the city is strictly interconnected with the ways in which social structures have been conceived. The course provides the students with a conceptual tools box in order to read the spatial form of the city as a physical manifestation of certain idea of society: from the Greek idea of polis to the contemporary model of the global city. Utopian cities as an example are investigated as exemplification of the interconnection between spatial form and ideal societies. The course also sheds light on various concepts of types of cities such as the Islamic city, the colonial and post-colonial city, capital cities, and twin cities, then analyzes case studies of cities in different geographical areas from morphological, social, and political perspectives. In addition to the analyses of cities discussed in the course, any suggested case studies of cities are welcomed.

9110202 Transforming Cities

This course introduces students to the different forces and practices that affect the dynamics that transform cities, whether in terms of global standing and function, public policies, urban planning, real estate influences or others. Through a

broad understanding of the social, economic, cultural, political, and environmental dynamics , the course offers methods of analyses and actions on different urban interplays. In addition, it provides an understanding about the representative actors involved whether they adopt top-down or down-up approaches. This, shall be examined on the transformation of urban space on different scale levels: the neighborhood, the area, or the city as a whole showing various examples and case studies from the Palestinian context as well as from the international experience.

9110203 Colonial and Post-Colonial Cities

What are the specific patterns of a colonial city? What are the continuities and discontinues between the colonial city and a the postcolonial city? In this course, the students will study, the delicate passage between colonial and postcolonial regimes and their impact on the structure of the city and society. Among the case studies: Delhi, Algiers, Rabat, Tripoli, Singapore, Jakarta, and Johannesburg.

9110204 Human Geography

Human Geography investigates the interactions between people and territories. The course explores cultural and spatial issues, ranging from geopolitics, to cartography and human rights. In particular, students will engage with problems related to land, rights and human interaction in Palestine and elsewhere. Through maps, field trips and texts, the course will analyze historical and contemporary developments in the politics of urban planning and space. The course will be structured around three main areas of investigation: A) The vertical perspective: topographical maps and areal photos, and different kinds of cartographic representations. The class sheds lights on software of Geographic Information Systems, Auto CAD and other specialized types of interactive map which facilitate map production and its redesign. The “vertical representation” of the world has historically been considered as objective and scientific. However, we know that maps were produce by the powerful and implicitly or explicitly they thereby necessarily embody a certain ideological vision of the world. Students will learn to

read critically such “objective” forms of representation and deconstruct its hidden political agenda. In particular we will read historical and contemporary maps of Palestine trying to contextualize their social and political vision of the world. B) The horizontal prospective: view from the road and walking. We will associate to the more classical and established forms of representation of territory on both a horizontal and dynamic perspective. This is a more subjective view but one that is nonetheless very useful for understating spatial transformation and the movements of people. Through the use of videos, photos, interviews with people we will learn how to map the territory from below. C) The vertical and horizontal approaches of investigation will be applied as strategies for reading phenomena such as colonization and decolonization, refugee camps and new towns.

300 LEVEL COURSES

9110301 Urbanism

This is an advanced course in urban theory and the sociology of cities. Course readings and discussions will focus on the history of urbanism, the production of social space and the politics of urban knowledge. What are some major forms that urbanism has taken? What is the role of planners, experts, and social movements in shaping urban space? What factors make cities change, stagnate or transform?

9110302 Research Lab. I

The Research Lab I combine theoretical and practice led approach to problems associated to urban spaces. In Research Lab, the students will receive training to use computer programs relevant to urban studies. They are expected to utilize these programs to analyzing urban problems especially controversial and urgent ones around urban grows and in particular urban nodes, urban accessibility, urban demolition, green spaces, public and private spaces, cultural and social landscapes.



جامعة القدس
Al-Quds University

9110303 Internship: Urban Studies in Context

The course is designed to combine substantial academic engagement with the theoretical principles of urban planning and human rights, as well as practical, hands-on experience of working in a UN agency alongside professional planners, human rights organizations and community leaders. In addition to academic writing and research, students doing the program will attend conferences and seminars and conduct basic field work. The summer course will offer a group of students the unique opportunity to develop their knowledge of crucial and emerging professional and academic fields in Palestine through a series of contemporary case studies examined and scrutinized with the expertise and guidance of local and international professionals from a range of disciplines.

ELECTIVE COURSES

200 LEVEL COURSES

9110205 Architecture of the City

To gain an understanding of the contemporary architecture of the twentieth century of cities, as an art, culture, science, and technology, the course explores past and present theories of architecture, presenting a panoramic view of historical and modern architectural styles in Eastern and Western cities. The course also introduces a variety of architectural problems and different solutions enabling the students to assess the different debates and trends of contemporary architecture of the city and their impact on the built environment, the society and the individual. In addition, the course covers various themes such as architectural terms, the role of the architect, works by famous architects, architectural technologies, as well as different types such as street, conflict, green, vernacular, living architectures.

9110206 Planning in divided cities (Comparative approach)

Examination of the spatial transformation of urban space; understanding the processes that shape urban form and its values; investigating the regulatory and

institutional structures and powers the urban form; studying alternative productions of urban space; studio-based design that contest and form alternatives to the mainstream discourse on urban space.

9110207 Urban Anthropology

This course is designed as an introduction to a selection of contemporary trends in the anthropology of the Middle East with an eye towards the current political and economic issues in the region. The aim is to acquaint students with some important texts and authors, and thereby encourage them to begin to think critically about the relationship between the Middle East and the West, as well as establish an understanding of the ways that anthropology can be practiced in order to help understand the area today. As such, the course will move through discussions of the politics of representation, Islam as practiced in parts of the Middle East and abroad, gender, contemporary political and economic issues, colonialism, Zionism, and the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

9110208 Cinema and Urban Space

Space as a product of representations, time and power structures; the examination of the work of different filmmakers in films which depict critical spatial issues; discussion of visual culture of space through film from the perspective of city planning, art, politics, architecture, economy and other disciplines.

9110209 Remote sensing and GIS

The course provides a solid theoretical and practical understanding of the use of remote sensing and Geographical Information system technology and its application in various fields, such as strategic planning, urban planning, environmental impact studies, economical assessments and application.

9110210 Urban Heritage

The course introduces students to various aspects of tangible and intangible heritage with a focus on urban examples. It presents how the value of urban and archeological areas, complexes, and buildings is assessed through national and international heritage standards. Theories of conservation and management of urban heritage as well as a wide range of examples shall be explored. A second part of the course shall introduce the UNESCO world heritage list and examples of the included sites, in addition to site visits and examinations of Palestinian heritage sites put on the tentative list for possible inclusion on the World heritage list.

9110304 Space, Power & Politics: Case Studies in Jerusalem*

The course's objective is to enhance spatial and territorial awareness and understanding of city and society (class, gender, age, disability, culture, ethnicity & access to economic opportunities and urban services). The course will introduce students to urban theories, participatory processes, mapping and urban ethnic conflict, and explain the role of urban planning as an operational tool that shapes geography and society. The lectures and readings will provide students with an overview of urban planning in the case study of Jerusalem (explain Israeli partisan urban planning policy, Jewish settlements and on going territorial/demographic engineering). The suggested seminar topics for the course include: Space, power and the everyday life- strategies & tactics (a prism of spatial analysis): Lefebvre, de Certeau, Foucault; Territory, territoriality and global urbanization: Sassen, Sack, Dealaney; Urban social justice: David Smith, Harvey, Friedman; Urban governance and ethno-national conflict in divided cities: Bollens, Dumper, Yiftachel; Jewish settlement policy and the matrix of territorial control: Weizman, Klein and Halper; Israeli planning and urban policy in Jerusalem: Efrat, Hanafi and Cheshin; Instrumentalization of security: Bollens, Yiftachel; Jerusalem municipality and urban discrimination: Margalit, 'Ir Shalem's publications and other NGO reports; Territorial control and manipulation of housing provision: Khamaisi, Cheshin & ICAHD; Multiple territorialities, urban fragmentation and territorial encapsulations: Yousef, and Palestinian & Israeli publication on the wall and its socio-political and economic effects.

9110305 Topics in Urban Studies

The focal point of this course is the globalizing city and the changes associated with urban restructuring. Its aim is a complex understanding of the contemporary urban condition, its method is the historicization of current urban change. The class starts with the construction of the modern city and the main elements of urban life and culminates in the analysis of various models of contemporary urban transformations textured by global capitalism. There is an overall emphasis on divisions in the urban project, the uneven production of space, the politics and inequalities of city-building and –dwelling, and the differential rights to the city.

9110306 Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development

Envisioning the future cities in general and the Palestinian cities in particular is a tool for planning the future needs and tackling the challenges. How our future cities and regions will look and how we could shape that "look" is essential for a sustainable urban structure. Many cities, and mainly local ones are unsustainable due to improper planning era due to successive occupations. The course is designed to explore the future shape and functions of our cities and how we could impact that future. Predicted challenges of cities' development and creative solutions might envision cities of less complexity.

9110307 Space and Law

This course is designed to introduce the undergraduate students to the impacts of planning laws and regulations on space and urban reform. The students will be trained to critique current regulations and utilize current and proposed regulations to impact urban development and changes. To be prepared, students will be updated with the urban status in Palestine and selective global cases with reference to current planning laws and regulations assessing how such regulations can impact urban development, both directly and indirectly. By the end of the

course, students will be able to propose law articles and to show how those articles will change the space they are living or familiar with based on a critique vision.

9110308 City and globalization*

How the globalization affects the notion of the city? When the global city emerged? What are the new elements introduced by the global economy? This course takes a critical look at globalization and its impacts on cities around the world. The first part of the course focuses on the ways transnational movements or "flows" of trade, finance, people and culture operate in and through a network of linked "global" cities. The second part of the course shifts attention to the global "periphery" and to some of the lower tier cities of the world's urban hierarchy: in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

9110309 Infrastructure and change

The course is designed to enhance the understanding and analysis of the role of infrastructure in the healthy functioning of social life and the urban form. It focuses on rapidly growing societies where urban growth is becoming a major characteristic of cities and the provision of adequate infrastructure becomes of vital importance. It will also illustrate the difficulties and the annoyance produced by some projects of infrastructure and will introduce solutions for the protection of residents and ameliorating the physical violence and social irritation resulting from them.

9110310 Urban Design and Spatial Practices

The course provides a critical overview of the work of urban designers historically. It also fosters a critical and intellectual platform for developing urban design tools crossing the boundaries between interior design, architecture and urban planning and other disciplines such as psychology, economics, engineering, sociology or environmental studies. The needs of the individual within the community, the different social groups, and the relation between the local and the global are all

taken into consideration with analyses of their impact on the process of urban design of different spaces. The course will therefore assess the political, and social spatial activism and its impact on urban design.

9110311 European Cities

The course focuses on the beginnings of European cities and their development to the contemporary forms and functions they have today. It explores the metamorphosis of the place since medieval period highlighting the impact on the character and identity of the different types of European cities. The course shall also examine different urban policies agreed by the member states of the EU and their impact on the urbanized cities. Cities like London, Paris, Rotterdam, Barcelona as well as a broad range of other cases shall be examined using maps, images, and texts.

9110312 Advanced Topics in Urban Studies

It is a course relating to the different theories about the urban form. It focuses in particular on the relationships between the forces that affect the city and its development. As an urban studies exercise it emphasizes the development of analytical and technical skills in perceiving, understanding and manipulating space and urban context.

9110313 Research Lab. II

9110314 Research Lab. III

Research Labs II and III consent students to intensify his/her engagement with the critical and creative dimension of the program. Research Labs provide to students the opportunity to engage, guided by emerging and established scholars and professionals, site-specific projects. The Research Lab is both research and practice led oriented, and it is structured around: fieldworks, interdisciplinary colloquium, collaborative works, and material production. The Research Labs are both critical and proactive and each one of them produces every year a small

exhibition where specific spatial and social issues are formulated and represented. To the end of the semester an external Jury will be selected to discuss students' works and presentations.

9110315 Public space, culture, and Identity

The course is designed to study the notion of public space and its importance in crystallizing collective cultural identity and citizenship. While searching for the identity of the place, typologies of public spaces will be illustrated and their social and cultural identity will be discussed. In addition to universal examples of public space, the specific situation in the occupied territories and relevant solutions will be the focus of discussion.

9110316 Contemporary Cities in the Middle East

This course focuses on the last decade of radical transformation of Middle East Cities. Dubai, Cairo, Beirut, Amman, changed completely their urban structure, in some cases expanding ten times its original dimension with social and environmental consequences rarely investigated. The neo liberal model which influence and drives the development of the urban fabric exposes dramatic difference and contradiction but also enormous potentiality. The students will engage critically on the reading of these spatial transformations.

9110317 Materials and Architectural technology

The course intends to develop students' awareness of the role played by available materials and building technology in influencing the aesthetics of the urban tissue and its buildings. While studying the local architectural technologies and the change of social and aesthetic values associated with it, the course will examine the influence of contemporary technology and the global markets in introducing new tectonics, materials and values to the traditional urban and architectural landscape

9110318 Gender and Spatial Practices

We will work with theoretical and multi-disciplinary texts to consider gender in relation to particular architectural sites, projects and ideas. The core debates on women and gender in art and architectural history are introduced. In-depth analyses of selected works of art and architecture from various historical contexts highlight issues including gendered practices of space, vision and power, masculinity, and cyberspace. Special emphasis is placed on the experience of women and men in Third World contexts.

9110319 Geopolitics and Local Practices

What are the effects of geopolitical lines and divisions drawn on maps into a domestic space of a house? How an apparent clear political division impacts the everyday life of a domestic space? In this seminar in particular we will look how geopolitical lines established during the Oslo Agreement affected the everyday life of the Palestinian people.

9110320 Urban Studies Research Seminar

In urban studies Research Seminar we will invite international expert to engage with the most controversial and urgent problems around the urban grows and its political fallout. In particular we look at: urban identity, urban demolition, green spaces, public and private spaces, preserving urban history, cultural and social landscapes.

400 LEVEL COURSES

9110401 Senior Project I (4 credits)

All fourth-year students at Al-Quds Bard are expected to complete a Senior Project. The senior project is a year-long project in which students work individually with their advisors on a topic of their choosing. In the social science division, senior projects involve advanced research, reading, and writing, and culminate in a long written work or project that must be defended in front of a committee. Senior



projects are typically at least forty-five pages in length and reflect the skills developed over the course of an Al-Quds Bard education.

9110402 Senior Project II (4 credits)

See Senior Project I.