



Course syllabus

Marknaden, politiken och staden Market, Politics and the City

VFRN02, 7,5 credits, A (Second Cycle)

Valid for: 2023/24

Faculty: Faculty of Engineering, LTH

Decided by: PLED L

Date of Decision: 2023-04-20

General Information

Elective for: L4-fr, L4-fe

Language of instruction: The course will be given in Swedish

Aim

The purpose of the course is for students to acquire knowledge of and analysis skills in the role of planning of the built environment in urban development. The course focuses on teaching how urban planning interacts with spontaneous market forces and thereby preparing students to work in an environment where market, bureaucracy and politics all affect the city's development.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a passing grade the student must

- Be knowledgeable about the regulations that affect how urban environments are used and developed, and for how these regulations are implemented
- Understand measures of accessibility, socio-economic inclusion and other indicators of urban growth based on available data
- Understand how markets will respond to policy interventions such as regulations, investment in infrastructure or design policies
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of the roles both market and politics roles in governing urban development

Competences and skills

For a passing grade the student must

- Be able to account for the regulations that affect how urban environments are used and developed, and for how these regulations are implemented
- Be able to develop measures of accessibility, socio-economic inclusion and other indicators of urban growth depending on available data
- Be able to analyze how accessibility, in both a socio-economic and transport-technical sense, affects urban labor markets in different ways in different cities
- Be able to predict and explain how markets will respond to political interventions such as regulations, investments in infrastructure or design policies.

Judgement and approach

For a passing grade the student must

- Be able to critically analyze historical and ongoing processes or current proposals that deal with the city's structure, use and development, and in doing so analyze from the different perspectives different actors involved have.

Contents

Cities are the major engine of growth for the world economy. Decades of urbanization have resulted in just over half of the world's population now living in cities, a growing proportion. At the same time, cities account for a significantly larger share of production. In cities, people gather closely, which creates a breeding ground for innovation, entrepreneurship and ideas. Even if this is done without a stated purpose, in a spontaneous and seemingly disorderly manner, it may seem tempting to try to plan for desirable outcomes. But what is the role of planning and politics, and what is the role of people and households' own choices?

In the course, students study and analyze economic and social processes in urban environments. The teaching is built around different processes and integrates knowledge from law, planning and economics, as well as geographical information technology. The students will in particular study and analyze the market's critical role for urban development, as well as get in touch with and in-depth analyze examples of when policy has disregarded the market and what consequences this has had for cities. The students will thereby gain an increased insight and understanding of how markets can be incorporated into politics and planning in order to thereby achieve desirable outcomes.

The course will include:

- Urban labor markets
- The role of land prices and its variation across space
- Population density and what it depends on
- Accessibility, mobility and transport
- Housing markets, with a special focus on social sustainability
- Public policy instruments for spatial planning.

A common theme for the course is to understand the borderland between market and politics. What can politics decide and what consequences can it have? What arguments are there for political intervention and what arguments are there for letting market forces guide development? What are the public policy instruments and how do they work? Here, the course will deal with e.g. general and detailed plans, public land ownership and implementation agreements for development.

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, and scheduled time for discussion of individual texts.

Examination details

Grading scale: UG - (U,G) - (Fail, Pass)

Assessment: Mandatory active participation in seminars, orally and in writing. Final

individual written report.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Admission

Admission requirements:

- VFTA05 Introductory Law and Real Estate Law
- VFTA01 Real Estate and Physical Planning
- VFTF01 Economics or VFTF35 Economics of the Built Environment

The number of participants is limited to: No

Reading list

- Alain Bertaud: Order without Design, - How Markets Shape Cities. MIT Press, 2018, ISBN: 9780262038768. Scientific articles and current reports, surveys and opinion articles made available by the department.

Contact and other information

Course coordinator: Fredrik Kopsch, fredrik.kopsch@lth.lu.se