

Contemporary Urban Developments

Study programme	YUFE Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies
Academic year	2026/2027
Curriculum component	First year
Year and semester	1st year, semester 2
Course type	Compulsory (jointly delivered by several YUFE partner universities)
ECTS credits	6
Contact hours (L+S+E)	30 + 30 + 0
Language of instruction	English

Contact

Course coordinator

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Prerequisites

No requirements.

Course objectives

The course aims to equip students with critical analytical tools and a solid conceptual foundation to understand, assess, and contribute to sustainable and inclusive urban development. It introduces students to major themes shaping contemporary urban development in Europe and beyond, with particular attention to climate change, urbanisation, social inequality, technological innovation, and sustainability transitions.

Learning outcomes

- Illustrate the diversity of urban environments and recent developments in the YUFE countries and cities.
- Describe examples in their own urban environment of contemporary urban evolutions as elaborated in the other YUFE cities.
- Compare urban developments on a certain theme in different cities and make contextual connections.
- Provide constructive feedback on contributions from fellow students.

Course content

- The course is jointly delivered by YUFE partner universities and coordinated by the University of Antwerp. The University of Rijeka contributes through the
- topic “Urbanisation theories & approaches”. Other topics:
- Preparing cities for climate change (Prof. Sarah Czerny, UNIRI)
- Heritage futures in contemporary cities (UEssex, UAntwerp)
- Sustainable urban mobility (NCU)
- Socially inclusive public spaces (UAntwerp)

- Smart cities (NCU, UAntwerp)
- Urban/rural relations (UEF)
- Urban systems in the Global South (UAntwerp)
- x lectures x independent tasks

Teaching and learning methods

lectures and seminars and workshops.

Assessment and grading

TO BE COMPLETED: weighting/points for attendance, group assignment and written exam Study the course materials and recorded lectures, complete the required assignments, participate in peer-feedback activities, and prepare for the written; exam.

Grading scale

Grade	Percentage
5 (A)	90-100%
4 (B)	75-89.9%
3 (C)	60-74.9%
2 (D)	50-59.9%
1 (F)	0-49.9%