

Social Justice and Public Policy

Study programme	YUFE Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies
Academic year	2026/2027
Curriculum component	Minor: Urban Inequality
Year and semester	2nd year, 1st semester (3rd semester overall)
Course type	Elective
ECTS credits	3
Contact hours (L+S+E)	20 + 10 + 0
Language of instruction	English

Contact

Course coordinator

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Course coordinator

doc. dr. sc. Nebojša Zelič

Prerequisites

No requirements.

Course objectives

The course introduces students to key concepts and debates in social justice and develops their ability to apply them to contemporary public-policy problems. Building also on foundational concepts in political ideas and public policy, students examine questions of redistribution, recognition and representation through cases involving housing and transnational wealth, merit and equality, foreign investment and urban development, mobility and citizenship, green extractivism, and care. Particular attention is paid to how political and economic structures produce unequal access to resources, opportunities, mobility and political voice, and to the role of public policy in reproducing, mitigating or transforming these inequalities.

Learning outcomes

- Explain and compare key dimensions of social justice, with particular attention to redistribution, recognition, and
- representation. Apply social-justice concepts to contemporary public-policy problems and critically analyse how political and economic
- structures shape the distribution of resources, opportunities, risks, mobility, and political voice. Develop and communicate a coherent, literature-grounded argument on a contemporary social-justice issue, identifying competing claims and evaluating possible public-policy responses.

Course content

- What makes an inequality unjust? Redistribution, recognition, and representation.
- Who owns the city? Property, dirty money, and urban inequality.
- Who gets to succeed? Merit, equality, and recognition.
- Who gets to shape the city? Foreign investment, urban development, and democratic participation.
- Who gets to move? Wealth, mobility, and citizenship.
- Who pays for the green transition? Extractivism, environmental justice, and unequal development.
- Who cares? Gender, social reproduction, and the political economy of care.
- What would a just policy response look like? Student presentations and discussion of selected social-justice cases.

Teaching and learning methods

lectures and seminars and workshops.

Assessment and grading

The course is assessed through continuous assessment; there is no separate final exam. The final grade is based on a 1,500-word essay (80%) and an in-class presentation of the essay topic and core argument (20%). The essay is evaluated on the clarity and coherence of the argument, substantive use of relevant academic literature, application of social-justice concepts, engagement with competing claims, and the quality of the discussion of public-policy responses.

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%