GE2261: URBAN SUSTAINABILITY IN HONG KONG

Effective Term
Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Urban Sustainability in Hong Kong

Subject Code
GE - Gateway Education
Course Number
2261

Academic Unit
School of Energy and Environment (E2)

College/School
School of Energy and Environment (E2)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

GE Area (Primary)
Area 2 - Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Medium of Instruction
English

Medium of Assessment
English

Prerequisites
Nil

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
Nil

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide the students with a basic understanding of key concepts and methodologies concerning urban sustainability and enhance their ability to address actual urban sustainability issues by incorporating environmental, technological, social, cultural, economic and policy dimensions. The students will work together in teams on major urban sustainability challenges in Hong Kong, including air pollution, energy, water, housing, and waste management. The students participate in lectures by researchers in academia and field trips and on-site discussions with practitioners in industry and the public sector. At the end of the course each group makes a poster presentation demonstrating their understanding of the structure of the urban sustainability challenge that they have chosen and proposes a policy-focused solution considering the complexity nature of the challenge.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe key challenges for urban sustainability in Hong Kong		x		
2	Explain major factors affecting urban sustainability in Hong Kong		x	x	
3	Describe potential solutions to urban sustainability challenges in Hong Kong		x	x	
4	Develop proposals for public policies that would promote urban sustainability in Hong Kong			x	x
5	Present and defend the proposed policy-focused sustainability solutions				x

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

	TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Acquire basic understanding of key urban sustainability challenges in Hong Kong. The major concepts and methodologies covered in this course include air pollution, energy efficiency, water security, housing, waste management, climate change, cost-benefit analysis, multi-criteria analysis, stakeholder analysis, policy-oriented solution.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
2	Field visit	Learn actual practices in dealing with urban sustainability challenges in Hong Kong through field visits such as Housing Authority Exhibition Center, Kai Tak District Seawater Cooling System, Energize Kowloon East Office, Eco Park Visitors Centre, and Wetland Park.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
3	Analysis	Analyse urban sustainability challenges and develop proposals for policy-oriented solutions in group discussions with guidance by the lecturers and instructors.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Group Work	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	50	
2	Poster Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	50	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Examination Duration (Hours)

N/A

Additional Information for ATs

Examination duration: N/A
Percentage of coursework, examination, etc.: 100% by continuous assessment
This course will be offered jointly with Arizona State University for a joint summer school, hence there will be no individual assessment.
Faculty members will evaluate each group's performance in the assessment.

To pass a course, a student must do ALL of the following:
1) obtain at least 30% of the total marks allocated towards continuous assessment ;
2) meet the criteria listed in the section on Assessment Rubrics.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Group Work

Criterion

Group work will analyse the basic structure of an urban sustainability challenge in Hong Kong and write an opinion-editorial (op-ed) article on the urban sustainability challenge and submit it to a Hong Kong newspaper.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

2. Poster Presentation

Criterion

Each group will propose policy-focused sustainability solutions and present them effectively and convincingly.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not event reaching marginal level

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Urban sustainability, air pollution, energy, water, housing, waste management, climate change, cost-benefit analysis, multiple criteria, stakeholder analysis, policy-oriented solution

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Harris, Paul G. 2012. Environmental policy and sustainable development in China: Hong Kong in global context, Bristol: Policy.
2	Mottershead, T. (eds). 2004. Sustainable Development in Hong Kong, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
3	Planning Department of Hong Kong SAR Government. 2000. Sustainable development in Hong Kong for the 21st century: Second stage consultation: public consultation report, Prepared by Environmental Resources Management (H.K. Govt. Documents - HC470.3.Z9 E735 2000).
4	Portney, Kent E. 2013. Taking sustainable cities seriously: economic development, the environment, and quality of life in American cities, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
5	Scott, Ian. 2010. The public sector in Hong Kong, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Glaeser, Edward. 2011. Triumph of the City, Introduction: Our Urban Species, Penguin Press.
2	Gottlieb, Paul and Simon Ng. 2017. Global Cities: Urban Environments in Los Angeles, Hong Kong, and China, MIT Press.
3	Melnick, Rob. 2013. The New City: A Perspective, Commissioned by Arizona State University Foundation.
4	MIT Sloan Management Review. 2009. Interview of Peter Senge: Sustainability: Not what you think it is.
5	Portney, Kent E. 2013. Taking sustainable cities seriously: economic development, the environment, and quality of life in American cities, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
6	Svara, James H. 2011. Local Government Action to Promote Sustainability: A Preliminary Examination.
7	Webber, Michael E. 2015. A Puzzle for the Planet, Scientific American, pp. 63-67.

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning

1

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

2

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

3

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

4

PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

5

PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team

4

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

5

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

Poster Presentation