



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	Design and Sustainability Seminar
Course number:	ENVI 3102 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Berlin Global Architecture and Design, Berlin Global Sustainability and Environment, Berlin Open Campus
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2018

Course Description

Since 2014, most of the Earth's 7.5 billion people live in cities. This number is expected to increase to 70% of almost 10 billion people by 2050. An increasingly urbanized planet also coincides with an increasing awareness of anthropogenic stresses on the earth's natural systems and growing experience and approaches for improvement. It's clear that urban environments will have an important role to play in developing a more sustainable future for the entire planet. In this seminar students learn about the role of cities in positively and negatively influencing global climate and biological systems, and the approaches taken by European cities to mitigate the negative impact while creating healthier, happier, and more productive urban environments. Issues will span holistic dimensions of sustainable discourse, emphasizing the relationship and balance of environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors. The course will focus specifically on the northern European context, especially the host city, Berlin, where students will regularly visit projects and meet with local practitioners.



Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- communicate ideas critically about cities, sustainable urban and community development, participation, social space and the built environment.
- conduct urban investigations and present their findings coherently in verbal and written formats.
- respond to site characteristics - including social, cultural, economic and ecological dimensions - in a meaningful way.
- learn from relevant precedents.
- understand the relationship of architecture to sustainability and urban regeneration, allied disciplines and the importance of interdisciplinary work. By the end of the course students will be able to:
- explain the significant challenges and opportunities facing cities now and during the next few decades. In addition, evaluate and develop proposed solutions to these problems, involving cultural, technical, political, economic, and aesthetic aspects.
- describe German approaches to green and sustainable design, having seen a variety of examples of progressive architecture and urbanism in and around Berlin.
- describe strengths and weaknesses in Berlin's urban development
- strategies, also comparing these to others such as American approaches.
- demonstrate how a number of principal forces, positive and negative, are affecting contemporary urban development.
- work productively in a group.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites. However, it is recommended that students



who plan to enroll be prepared for an intensive seminar setting. The focus of the course is on sustainability and the designed environment, in particular the impacts of urban development and society. Therefore, this course requires students to participate regularly and debate on challenging issues, as well as conduct independent research to develop an informed argument that will ultimately form the basis for a presentation (see below). In addition, assignments will include reading up to 50 pages per week and submitting thought provoking questions that will help spark group discussions.

Methods of Instruction

Class presentations and discussions, readings, and site visits.

Momentous, ongoing developments are dramatically impacting life on our planet:

- Earth is well on its way to being urbanized as more people are living in cities than in villages and rural settings;
- Economically and socially, societies around the world are being polarized, as gaps expand between rich and poor groups;
- Our cities and their respective populations are also influenced by new immigrants as they are fleeing war and environmental disaster and seeking a better life in cities like Berlin.
- Human activity is significantly contributing to climate change, resource depletion and loss of biodiversity;
- Revolutionary and sustainable ideas are emerging, challenging the still dominating developmental, economic and political models created through the Industrial Revolution. The search is on in many European cities for sustainable alternatives, including a variety of strategies emphasizing cooperation, use of renewable energy and decentralized infrastructures.

The course will investigate a series of interrelated themes of fundamental



importance to urban sustainability: political will and political failure in the determination of urban policy; demographic challenges such as ageing and diversifying populations as well as migration; contrasting patterns of inclusion and racism, solidarity and poverty, immigration and exclusion; security in an age of war, crime and terrorism, etc. Global warming and environmental degradation is a central concern just as adaption to these changes.

The main urban study will be the host city of Berlin and its region, for it is here that a rich variety of pioneering projects of sustainable design can be experienced firsthand. These community development and building projects offer exciting solutions for public participation, the use of local and renewable energy, converted infrastructures, and ecological-political coordination. We will visit a number of these during scheduled field trips. The resulting insights into strategies for creating economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable urban environments will be valuable to students of architecture and sustainability as well as those in other disciplines.

Cities have always reflected the combined efforts of human civilization and will continue to require interdisciplinary teamwork to survive and flourish!

Berlin Seminar

The course will investigate a series of interrelated themes of fundamental importance to urban development:

- local and international movements are further developing around ideas of participation and self-organization.
- urban, architectural and developmental theories are fragmenting and competing for attention, such as Critical Reconstruction, Do It Yourself and Do It Together strategies.



- political will and political failure in the determination of urban policy demands attention. What combination of top-down and bottom-up is appropriate?
- coordinated city-making including co-working, co-living, community gardening, shared economy, etc.
- demographic challenges including ageing and diversifying populations
- conflicting patterns of gentrification, segregation, displacement, wealth and poverty.
- the reemergence of the pedestrian and bicycle friendly city.
- consumption of oil and energy and centralization of energy infrastructures - paralleled by movements to localize and decentralize control of energy and resource management.
- the alarming increase of CO2 emissions, and the consequent alterations to the earth's climatic equilibrium are no longer phenomena that can be ignored by architects and urban planners, also calling for adaptation strategies.

Assessment and Final Grade

Participation and Attendance in Class	30%
Key Topic Presentation and Discussion	35%
Key Topic Research Paper	35%

Course Requirements

Participation and Attendance in class

We are emphasizing participation regarding architecture, sustainability and urban design, and also expecting participation in each meeting and



tour. This means of course attending each meeting - and beyond that participating in discussions!

Questions: One question should be submitted (to Canvas) in advance of each week's meeting. A question should then be asked during that session!

Images: One image (at least) as a form of your personal documentation, should be posted to our "CIEE Global Architecture and Design" Facebook platform following each tour or project visit.

Key Topic Presentation and Discussion

20-minute (PowerPoint) presentation, followed by another 10 minutes of discussion. Includes review of relevant best practices in Berlin as well as in the US or elsewhere. Ideally should draw on both current theory and practice. Should help to give studio project some direction and content.

Key Topic Research Paper

Developed out of individual presentation, of 1,000-1,250 words in length, including mostly text but also some images. Should relate to studio project in some way. Include references to best practices in Berlin as well as in the US. This paper will be submitted on the final day of the seminar.

Participation

As part of your work in this course, students should demonstrate learning beyond the submission of written assignments or presentations. As such, all students receive grades based upon participation.

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students receive grades based upon their contributions both in the classroom and in the Canvas course.



Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed by the Instructor, in advance of each class session. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials where directed.

This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course sessions will also result in a lower final grade.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- satisfactory evidence is provided of a family emergency

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.



Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1	No academic penalty
10 – 20%	2	Reduction of final grade
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 4 language classes	Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Session 1 Questions for each student to answer and discuss:

- Global Urban Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century City, regarding Sustainability, Democracy, Architecture and Design?
- Compare your home city with Berlin! What do you expect from this seminar?

Introduction

- id22: (<http://id22.net/>) Creative Sustainability, DIY + DIT, self-organization, process, community-orientation, cooperatives, CoHousing, CoWorking, Community Gardening, Future Cities, Sustainability, Post-Growth, Urban Regeneration, etc.



- Syllabus review and discussion

Session 2 Site Visit + Discussion

Spreefeld, Teepee Land, YAAM Mörchenpark / Holzmarkt

Presentation + Discussion

- Spreefeld / Spree WG / CoHousing Cultures. Community-Oriented, Collaborative, Cooperative Housing.
- id22 Project Space / Spreeacker / Urban Renewal District Nördliche Luisenstadt (Sanierungsgebiet): Public Planning on the Spree River Shore. Public Access to Water. Flussbad Berlin.
- Media Spree + Media Spree Versenken
- Discuss individual Key Topics!

Readings

- CoHousing Cultures <http://cohousing-cultures.net/?lang=en>
- LaFond, Michael and Larissa Tsvetkova. "CoHousing Inclusive: Berlin Practices and Model Projects of Spreefeld, Sharehaus, and Sredzkistrasse 44," *Irish Journal of Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability* 1, no. 1, 2017. 42-48. Available at: <http://ijsees.ie/archive/>
- See online references below for "Spreefeld and Holzmarkt"

Session 3 Meeting Point: G27, Lobby/Cafe 12:30

- Presentation and discussion on the impacts of architectural design on society and self-initiated urban living
- Reading: Selections from Ring, *Selfmade City*

Sessions 4-5 Global Challenges Climate Change Adaptation

- Reading: Selections from Klein, *This Changes Everything*



- Presentation and discussion on the four critical aspects of sustainability (social, cultural, economic, and environment)
- Discuss and decide on individual Key Topics!
- Submit a one-page abstract of the research paper

Session 6 **Excursion 1** (see list below of past excursions)

Sessions 7-8 **Developing and Refining the Key Topic Research Projects**

- Short individual meetings with each student.
- Submit a presentation outline in advance of the meeting.
- During the meeting, presentations and research papers are to be discussed with questions, feedback and recommendations.

Session 9 **Excursion 2** (see list below of past excursions)

Sessions 10-11 **Student Presentations**

Session 12 **Final Discussion and Research Paper Due!**

Past excursions and guest speakers have included:

Bike Tour: Bauhaus Re Use Pavilion / Allmende Kontor / Community Gardens / Plattenvereinigung / die gartnerei / VOLLGUT. agora / Klunker Kranich (optional)

- See also online references below for “Pioneer Projects, Process Orientation”

Berlin Wall History Tour

Including Eco Chapel. FAT Koehl Architecture Office. Florian Koehl, Architect, Office, Strelitzer Str.



<http://www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/en/>
<http://www.kapelle-versoehnung.de/bin/englisch/index.php>
<http://www.fatkoehl.com/>

Exhibition, Flussbad Berlin

<http://www.flussbad-berlin.de/project>
Tim Edler, Flussbad Berlin eV

Kreativ Quartier Südliche Friedrichstadt - Bauhütte

<http://www.bauhuetten-berlin.de/>

Horst Pfander, Selbstbaugenossenschaft, IBEB Projekt

Selected Readings

- Burdett, Ricky and Deyan Sudjic, eds. *Living in the Endless City: The Urban Age Project by the London School of Economics and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Society*. London: Phaidon, 2011.
- Klein, Naomi. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. New York and London: Penguin, 2014.
- LaFond, Michael and Larissa Tsvetkova. "CoHousing Inclusive: Berlin Practices and Model Projects of Spreefeld, Sharehaus, and Sredzkistrasse 44," *Irish Journal of Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability* 1, no. 1, 2017. 42-48.
Available at: <http://ijsees.ie/archive/>
- Mansouri, Nariman, ed. *Living Tomorrow*. Vienna: X-Change Culture Science, 2014.
- Ring, Kirstien and Franziska Eidner. *Selfmade City Berlin: Self-initiated Urban Living and Architectural Interventions*. Berlin: Jovis, 2013.



Online References

Spreefeld and Holzmarkt

www.spreefeldberlin.de
<http://www.archdaily.com/587590/coop-housing-project-at-the-river-spreefeld-carp-aneto-architekten-fatkoehl-architekten-bararchitekten>
http://www.uncubemagazine.com/sixcms/detail.php?id=14819803&articleid=art-14_16311762005-c3521afb-0372-4ff8-80a1-403449dc3af7#!/page38
http://www.holzmarkt.com/downloads/140411_Holzmarkt_Broschuere.pdf
<http://www.bauwelt.de/themen/bauten/Spreefeld-2172539.html>
www.spreeacker.de
<http://www.yaam.de/>
<http://www.exberliner.com/features/lifestyle/save-berlin-a-tale-of-two-condos/>
<https://www.facebook.com/teepee.land.1>
<http://experimentdays.de/2016/>
<http://www.luisenstadt-mitte.de/>
<http://forum.luisenstadt-mitte.de>

Prinzessinnengärten, Bethaus, and Kunstraum Kreuzberg

<https://www.modulor.de/en/store-berlin/> <http://prinzessinnengarten.net/>
<http://www.bethaus.com/berlin/> <http://kbh-mauerplatz.de/aktuell.html>
<http://www.kunstraumkreuzberg.de/programm.html>
<http://www.kunstraumkreuzberg.de/english.html> <http://gaerten-am-mariannenplatz.blogspot.de/>
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baumhaus_an_der_Mauer
<https://markthalleneun.de/>

Pioneer Projects, Process Orientation



Berlin City Master Plan vs. 100% Tempelhof (Citizens' Initiative), housing for refugees.

<http://www.thf-berlin.de/tempelhofer-feld/>

DIE GÄRTNEREI.BERLIN

<http://diegaertneri.berlin/category/blog/>

[http://raumlabor.net/die-](http://raumlabor.net/die-gaertneri/www.facebook.com/diegaertneri.berlin)

[gaertneri/www.facebook.com/diegaertneri.berlin](http://raumlabor.net/die-gaertneri/)

<http://raumlabor.net/die-gaertneri/>

Tempelhof: The mother of all 'abandoned' airports

<http://www.abandonedberlin.com/2015/03/tempelhof-mother-of-all-airports.html>

Tempelhof: Community Gardens

<http://www.nprberlin.de/post/fancy-purple-potato-grow-your-own-tempelhofs-urban-gardens>

Tempelhof: Pioneer Projects

[http://www.thf-berlin.de/nc/en/get-involved/pioneer-projects/tp/0/100% Tempelhof](http://www.thf-berlin.de/nc/en/get-involved/pioneer-projects/tp/0/100%Tempelhof)

<http://www.thf100.de/start.html>

Tempelhof: Refugees

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/11/world/europe/tempelhof-airport-once-a-lifeline-for-berliners-reprises-role-for-refugees.html?_r=0