

# Urban Planning Program Syllabus

COURSE NAME	HOURS	ECTS
<i>Urban planning knowledge and practice</i>	158h	13
<p><b>Urban planning theory and practice</b>  <b>Main lecturer : Pedro Gomes</b></p> <p>The module's objectives are to provide insight on the main urban planning instruments and objectives in France and in the Paris region in particular ; to link existing planning documents, policies and practices to theoretical debates ; to develop comparative thought between France and other national contexts.</p> <p>The module is lecture-based and built around a weekly reading assignment. Students are assessed through a comparative essay between France and their place of origin, on a planning issue of their choosing. Two in-class tutoring sessions are included in the semester.</p>	18h	4
<p><b>Urban planning studio</b>  <b>Main lecturers : Jennifer Buyck and Pedro Gomes</b></p> <p>In groups combining different nationalities and educational backgrounds, students develop an autonomous ecological foresight exercise, including analysis and overall strategy and concrete proposals. The main project tool used is the urban transect. The studio's current topic is the future of the Bièvre river as a catalyst for urban transitions. Local stakeholders and planning professionals, through site visits, lectures and project reviews, among others.</p> <p>The planning studio is the backbone of the curriculum. Two full days are dedicated to it, with six weekly hours of in-class tutoring.</p> <p>The studio includes a COIL module with the MA in Architecture at IUAV (Venice) on futuring techniques and scenario building.</p>	140h	9

COURSE NAME	HOURS	ECTS
<i>Socio-ecological Transitions in Urban Planning</i>	42h	6
<p><b>Urban planning and transitions in Paris - workshop</b>  <b>Coordinating lecturer: John Bingham-Hall</b></p> <p>During a whole week, students actively and critically engage with transition initiatives in the Paris region. The week's format varies, including workshops built around site visits with urban professionals, to fieldwork- or project-based ones. The workshop may be jointly led with students and faculty from other institutions in France and abroad. In 2026, students will critically engage with the city's bioclimatic urbanism), in partnership with the Paris School of Architecture.</p>	18h	2
<p><b>Urban natures</b>  <b>Main lecturer: Lou Gomez</b></p> <p>Effective urban transitions must rethink the place of nature in urban areas. This course introduces students to the issue, providing a theoretical background and practical examples in the Paris region. Course topics include i) the major conceptual approaches to nature and natural processes in cities, including ecosystem services and urban metabolism; ii) planning and design approaches to green, blue and brown infrastructure for ecosystem preservation and risk management; iii) environmental justice, i.e. unequal access and vulnerability to urban natures.</p>	12h	2
<p><b>Urban mobilities</b>  <b>Main lecturers: Abel Girard and Marie Hue</b></p> <p>Decarbonizing urban mobilities is a key factor in fighting climate change, promoting urban health and struggling for spatial justice. This course's main objective is to introduce students to the relationships between urban space, urban and transportation planning and mobilities. Course topics are i) main concepts in transportation and mobility planning; ii) the mobility-urban planning nexus at different scales; iii) low carbon mobilities, cyclable and walkable cities; iv) urban mobilities and inequality. Examples from the Paris region will be used, through visits and/or case studies.</p>	12h	2

COURSE NAME	HOURS	ECTS
<p><i>Representing the City</i></p>	36h	6
<p><b>Models for urban ecodesign</b>  <b>Main lecturer: Florence Jacquinod</b></p> <p>In this course, students learn to collect and use 2D and 3D geodata to analyse some aspects of an urban site and to represent them in a GIS tool. Each session is divided into two parts: a short introduction with conceptual notions and then practical exercises using GIS tools and real world data. In this second part, quizzes are used to outline key aspects in assessing the relevance of geodata and GIS tools for specific urban site analyses. The course assignment contributes to data analysis within the Urban Planning Studio.</p>	18h	3
<p><b>International video workshop</b>  <b>Coordinating lecturer: Jennifer Buyck</b></p> <p>The workshop unites planning, engineering, architecture and arts students from institutions in Chile, France, Italy and in the USA. During one week, students shoot, edit video and sound in small groups, to collectively create their own version of Etudes sur Paris, a 1928 silent film by André Sauvage. The workshop begins with a ciné-concert of Sauvage's film and ends with a screening of the students' work.</p>	18h	3

COURSE NAME	HOURS	ECTS
<i>Languages and culture</i>	36h	5
<p><b>French foreign language</b>  <b>Main lecturer: Andréia Dias Rodrigues</b></p> <p>By the end of the semester, students will have achieved level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This includes knowledge of the main grammatical structures of the language and the vocabulary needed for basic everyday interactions. Assessment includes weekly quizzes, written exams and an oral presentation about the students' everyday life in Paris.</p>	18h	2
<p><b>Cultural diversity and intercultural management</b>  <b>Coordinating lecturer: Derek Mainwaring</b></p> <p>This course aims to boost students' cross-cultural competency and ability to work in a multi-cultural context. Throughout the semester, students learn about cultural concepts, teambuilding and management, as well as teamwork and culture. Students are assessed through an empirical analysis of an intercultural work situation.</p>	18h	3