

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 33791  
**Name:** Urban Spaces  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Facultat de Geografia i Història	2	Second quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1318 - Degree in Geography and the Environment	Urban spaces	COMPULSORY

**COORDINATION**

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**SUMMARY**

The urbanization in all its forms is becoming one of the most remarkable processes of the century. For the first time in history, there are more people living in urban areas than in rural. At the time, the city appears as an economic engine of the countries and regions and melting pot of social movements, reformers and revolutionaries of all kinds. In this course the fundamental definitions of contemporary urban spaces are reviewed, analyzing the origin of the city in history, the relationship between different cities to happen systems and urban form. Also studied the different ways in which urban spaces are presented to the world, with focus on three themes: the emergence of new urban forms (megacities, city-regions), unfair cities based on skin color, gender or the origin and the social movements that have the urban space as a fundamental means of action.

**PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE****RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**



No prerequisites

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Aprendizaje autónomo, creatividad, capacidad de iniciativa y espíritu emprendedor. Capacidad de resolver situaciones imprevistas.

Capacidad de trabajo en equipos de carácter interdisciplinar.

Capacidad de trabajo individual.

Compromiso con valores de igualdad de género, interculturalidad, igualdad de oportunidades y accesibilidad universal de las personas con discapacidad, cultura de la paz y valores democráticos, y solidaridad.

Comunicación oral y escrita en la lengua propia y conocimiento de una lengua extranjera.

Dimensiones temporal y espacial en la explicación de los procesos sociales y territoriales y medioambientales.

Diversidad de lugares, regiones y localizaciones y sus relaciones.

Geografía humana, económica y social.

Historia y pensamiento de la disciplina geográfica.

Metodología y trabajo de campo.

Métodos de información geográfica.

Relación del medio natural con la esfera social y humana.

Relación y síntesis información territorial transversal.

Skills in analysis and synthesis.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. The urbanization and the study of urban geography

The complexity of the urban phenomenon and the definitions of the city. The city as an object of multidisciplinary study. Evolution of the study of urban geography.



## **2. The origins and the development of the city in history**

Analysis of the different theories about the beginning of the city in the world. The historical role of the city as a motor of economic, social and cultural changes.

## **3. The spatial construction of the city: urbanism**

The location of the city. The composition of the morphology of the city. The forms of urban growth: between tradition and utopia. The social actors that build the city.

## **4. The systemic dimension of city**

The city and its area of influence. The functional areas. The role of medium-sized cities as articulators of the territory. The urban network, hierarchy of cities and global system of cities. The expansion of urban space and territorial effects.

## **5. New urban challenges: from the Modern City to the megacity and the global city.**

Urban growth and development. The Modern City: Le Corbusier. Telecommunications and transport as articulators of the city and the system of cities. From the megacity to the global city.

## **6. The global challenge: The sustainability of cities**

The quality of life in cities. SDG 11 and environmental problems. New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP): mobility and the city. Tourism and transformations of urban space.

## **7. The social dimension: from the right to the city to the gender perspective**

Revolutionary theories on the role of the city and urban social movements. Social, ethnic or gender division in the city: the concept of spatial injustice and gentrification. Governance and citizen participation. Urbanism with a gender perspective. The urban landscape: built city, lived city and perceived city. Work in neighborhoods: the new regeneration.

## **8. Sources, databases and indicators for the knowledge and diagnosis of cities**

The complexity of the sources of information. Traditional sources of information: from historical archives to technological data sources of geographic information and Big Data. The democratization of urban data: Open data.

**WORKLOAD****PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Other activities	15,00
Classroom practices	15,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

**NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	10,00
Independent study and work	40,00
Preparation of lessons	30,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

The development of the course is divided into two working sessions a week. Some of the issues discussed in theoretical sessions are complemented by documentaries or conferences about related processes and issues. The student will follow complementary activities, both inside and outside the classroom, while they develop the contents of the program. There will be also have weekly hours for tutoring.

**EVALUATION**

An evaluation system that combines ongoing effort during the course and a final written test is proposed. During the development of the course the student will practice three types of activities: reading and classroom discussion of material, group tutoring and workshops (up to 4 points). It also will be a final written test consisting of the development of specific aspects of the program. The final written test may involve up to five points on the overall rating. For both ratings can be weighted, the student must obtain at least four points in the final written test. A point will come from complementary activities or readings.

The second call will evaluate the theoretical and practical criteria of the subject in the same way as in the first call

**REFERENCES**

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- Zoido F., De la Vega, S., Piñeiro, A., Morales, G.; Mas R., Lois, R. y González, J.M. (2013). Diccionario de urbanismo: Geografía urbana y ordenación del territorio. Cátedra.
- Burgel, G. (2012). Historia de la Europa Urbana, VI. La ciudad contemporánea. Desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial hasta nuestros días. Universitat de València.
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