

UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Spring 2019 Semester Course

As of January 10th, 2019

Title: Sustainable Cities: Using the Sustainable Development Goals as a Framework for Enabling Sustainable Urban Development

Coordinator(s): Dr. Riyanti Djalante, Dr. Phillip Vaughter, and Dr. Mahesti Okitasari

Schedule: April – June 2019

Overview:

Cities are home to half the world's seven billion people and contribute to about 75% of global economic output. An additional three billion people are estimated to live in cities by 2050, increasing the urban share of the world's population to two-thirds. Yet, cities and urban areas across the world face major challenges: poverty, unemployment, poor housing and lack of basic services for over 1 billion slum dwellers, constraints on productivity due to lack of basic infrastructure, and a concentration risk due to natural disasters and climate change. Cities are also responsible for a large share of the world's pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. However, not everything about city life is bleak – for example, urban citizens tend to be more resource and energy efficient than their suburban and rural counterparts. This classical view of the city, as a site of inextricable problems has inhibited interest and investment in them as sites of opportunity, innovation, and change.

In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The New Urban Agenda was adopted in 2016 to guide urban development toward safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. Because the Goals interconnect, they also offer a way to tackle all the goals simultaneously. In this course, we will use Goal 11 as a focal point for addressing all the Sustainable Development Goals in an urban context, keeping in mind the Goals complexity and interconnectivity.

Learning Outcomes:

This course explores what sustainable cities are all about. It examines how urban sustainability can be delivered through the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals: how cities function as systems of systems; how we can increase urban productivity and reduce urban poverty and inequality, enable urban inclusion and safety; provide universal basic services, housing and infrastructure; protect the urban environment, reduce risk and vulnerability, and increase resource and energy efficiency. It further explores what actions need to be taken to improve urban governance and financing for sustainable development and key institutions and agents that can make this possible.

- Part 1: History of sustainable development: What is sustainable development? How does it relate to urban development?
- Part 2: Analysis of the 17 SDGs: What are the 17 goals and how are they interlinked through Goal 11? How will the Sustainable Development Goals be implemented within the urban context and what is the current progress of each goal?
- Part 3: Local to Global: How will the Sustainable Development Goals be monitored in cities? What other international frameworks can be connected to city governance?

Course Outline

Lecture / Assignment	Date	Content	Instructor
Part 1: History of sustainable development			
Lecture 1	2 April 2019 11.00-12.30	Introduction: Sustainable development timeline	Dr. Djalante / Dr. Vaughter
Lecture 2	2 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Introduction: Overview of the 17 SDGS and key interlinkages with SDG 11	Dr. Djalante / Dr. Vaughter
Assignment 1	Friday, 23.55pm	Annotated bibliography (Lecture 2 to 14) due on the Friday after the class	
Part 2: Analysis of the 17 SDGs			
Lecture 3	4 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Cities and Human Development: SDG 1	Dr. Philip Vaughter
Lecture 4	9 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Cities and Human Development: SDG 2	Dr. Philip Vaughter
Lecture 5	11 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Cities and Human Development: SDG 3	Dr. Philip Vaughter
Lecture 6	16 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Cities and Human Development: SDG 4	Dr. Philip Vaughter
Lecture 7	18 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Inclusive Cities: SDGs 5 & 10	Dr. Riyanti Djalante
Lecture 8	23 April 2019 14.00-15.30	Climate Resilient Cities: SDG 6	Dr. Riyanti Djalante
Lecture 9	25 April 2019 16.00-17.30	Climate Resilient Cities: SDGs 7 & 13	Dr. Riyanti Djalante
Assignment 2	26 April 2019, 23.55pm	Policy brief	
Lecture 10	9 May 2019 14.00-15.30	Urban Economy: SDGs 8 & 9	Dr. Okitasari
Lecture 11	16 May 2019 16.00-17.30	Urban Economy: SDG 12	Dr. Okitasari
Lecture 12	4 June 2019 14.00-15.30	Blue & Green Cities: SDGs 14 & 15	Dr. Philip Vaughter
Lecture 13	6 June 2019 14.00-15.30	Governing Cities: SDGs 16 & 17	Dr. Okitasari
Part 3: Local to global			
Lecture 14	11 June 2019 14.00-15.30	Global Cities: Linking city governance to Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework	Dr. Djalante / Dr. Okitasari / Dr. Vaughter
Assignment 3	13 June 2019, 23.55pm	Research paper	
Lecture 15	18 June 2019 14.00-15.30	Summary of classes	Dr. Djalante / Dr. Okitasari / Dr. Vaughter
Assignment 4		Class Presentation	

Assessment:

- Class Participation and Discussion: **7%**

- **Assignment 1: Annotated bibliography for lecture topic**
 - 14x2%=**28%** (Lecture 1 to 14)
 - Write an annotated bibliography on key topics discussed (from Lecture 1 to 14)
 - 4 References @ 75-100words (journal articles only) per summary. You can certainly use those from the reading list or other journal articles
 - Arial 12, 1.5 space, justified alignment
 - Course name, assignment number, lecture topic, student name and number, are in the header
 - Harvard referencing style

- **Assignment 2: Policy Brief**
 - Write an issue-based policy brief outlining an aspect of urban sustainability you think needs to be tackled by city government, and how this issue is related to Goal 11 and the other SDGs
 - Recommend three to four possible solutions for the sustainable development issue drawing examples from different cities around the world
 - **20%** of total marks
 - Arial 12, 1.5 space, justified alignment, double side, cover page, references (reports and academic articles)
 - Harvard referencing style
 - Maximum of 2,000 words (including references)
 - Include a works cited section on references you cite within the brief.

- **Assignment 3: Research Paper**
 - Write a research paper on a specific city from a geo-region you select during class.
 1. Provide a brief summary of relevant information in regard to the city (geography, size, demographics), and then
 2. Provide an overview of how well the city is meeting Goal 11, as well as what issues the city is facing in regard to the other 16 Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 1-10, 12-17).
 - a. **Note:** this should not be an exhaustive list – two to three sentences with supporting references are sufficient for each of the SDGs you discuss. This information can be presented in table format.
 - b. Examine the literature you can find in relation to each of the SDGs for the city, and
 3. Propose three of the SDGs you would prioritize for city governance in the city. Explain why these SDGs should be priority areas for your city?
 4. Propose what research is needed to better understand the problem related to the three SDGs you propose prioritizing.
 - **35%** of total marks

- Arial 12, 1.5 space, justified alignment, double side, cover page, references (in-text, bibliography, can include both reports and academic articles)
 - Harvard referencing style
 - Maximum of 3,000-3,500 words (not including references)
 - Include a works cited section on references you cite within the brief.
- **Assignment 4: Class Presentation (of assignment 3)**
 - **10%** of total marks
 - 5-minute presentation
 - Maximum 5 slides
 1. City overview
 2. Progress in implementing SDG 11
 3. Issues in regard to the other 16 SDGs
 4. Proposal for 3 SDGs to be prioritized and why
 5. Research needs for the priorities
 - Make your presentation to the mayor of the city