Course Title
Urban Greening Lab

Course Number
SCA-UA.9650001, ENVST-UA.9495001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Dipl. Ing. Architekt Sigismund Sliwinski
ss6541@nyu.edu

Course Details
Tuesdays, 4:00pm to 6:45pm
Location of class: NYUB St. Agnes and AC Prenzlauer Berg
Tour meeting points will be announced, please check your email the night before class.

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
4

Course Description
This course provides a comprehensive examination of Berlin’s urban ecology and approaches to urban planning, while introducing their history, and the correlations between the city’s built structure, urban nature and culture. The course combines lectures, workshops and site visits to several facets of Berlin’s ‘green’ past and present.

The course investigates Berlin’s ‘green’ structures in relation to the economic, socio-cultural, and political processes that shape them, while placing an emphasis on ideas of sustainability and sustainable projects, as well as how these influence Berlin’s built structure.

This is a fieldwork-intensive course, which meets for 2.5 hours per week.

Tours will alternate with lectures, discussions and workshops.

Course Objective
This is a fieldwork-intensive course, through which we will explore the history of urban change in Berlin. We will focus on the long-term processes that have made the city a contemporary global green icon. In addition to completing all readings and attending all course sessions, you will complete an essay about Urban Ecology/Ecological Urbanism, Mapping Assignment: Neighborhood Friedrichstraße and research papers about two Green Projects in Berlin.
Assessment Components

Class Participation 10% of total marks

Assignment Essay: Urban Ecology/Ecological Urbanism 10% of total marks
(5 pages, A4, double-spaced, size 12 font)

Mapping Assignment: Neighborhood Friedrichstraße 15% of total marks
The mapping assignment will be a set of 2-3 double-sized pages, (4-6 normal pages) minimum.
It is an analysis which mixes text with graphic components such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams.
Mapping is a specific data information strategy that will be explained in class.

First Project 25% of total marks
This research paper will be a set of 4 double-sized pages (8 normal pages) minimum.
It is an examination of a core question and theme related to the 1st project. This material will be developed in a strategy that combines the classical research text with mapping components.

Final Project with Presentation 40% of total marks
This research paper will be a set of 5 double-sized pages (10 normal pages) minimum.
It is an examination of a core question and theme related to the final project. This material will be developed in a strategy that combines the classical research text with mapping components.
It also includes a 10-minute presentation and discussion.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.
**Grade Conversion**

Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- $B+ = 87-89$
- $C+ = 77-79$
- $D+ = 67-69$
- $F = below 65$
- $A = 94-100$
- $B = 84-86$
- $C = 74-76$
- $D = 65-66$
- $A- = 90-93$
- $B- = 80-83$
- $C- = 70-73$

Alternatively:

- $A= 4.0$
- $A- = 3.7$
- $B+ = 3.3$
- $B = 3.0$
- $B- = 2.7$
- $C+ = 2.3$
- $C = 2.0$
- $C- = 1.7$
- $D+ = 1.3$
- $D = 1.0$
- $F = 0.0.$

**Attendance Policy**

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or NYU Berlin's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html)

**Late Submission of Work**

1. Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2. Late work should be submitted in person to the lecturer or to the Academics Office, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

3. Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

4. Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

5. End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

6. Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

7. Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

**Provisions for Students with Disabilities**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website ([http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html)) for further information.

**Plagiarism Policy**

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: [http://nyu.libguides.com/citations](http://nyu.libguides.com/citations)).

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by
your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

**Required Text(s)**
No need to purchase. The book will be available as an e-book.

All other texts will be uploaded on NYU Classes. The material should be *printed out and read for class*. It is not sufficient to look at the material on line. It is best to assemble the readings in your own binder.

**NYU Berlin Library Catalogue**: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**
Supplemental texts will be posted on NYU Classes from the following sources:


**Internet Research Guidelines**
To be discussed in class.

**Additional Required Equipment**
City map with an index of street names, for example *Falk Plan*; a journal/sketchbook; trace paper; a digital camera and a transportation ticket.

Remember that the excursions are often outside; *please wear appropriate clothing*.

**Session 1 – 31 Jan 2017**
Classroom St. Agnes
Urban Greening Lab

*Introduction to the Course*
**Lecture 1:**
Berlin, Seven Phases of Greening

**Session 2 – 7 Feb 2017**
Classroom St. Agnes
**Lecture 2:**
Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism 1
and Discussion

**Required Reading** for Session 2:

*Ecological Urbanism: The Nature of the City:*

**On NYU Classes:**


**Assignment essay “Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism”**
due during Session 3.

Tour 1: Neighborhood - Friedrichstraße
Topic for Assignment Mapping

Session 3 – 14 Feb 2017
Assignment Essay “Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism” is due.

Classroom St. Agnes
Workshop Mapping I: "Neighborhood - Friedrichstraße"
and Discussion
Please remember to bring your art supplies (tracing paper, colored pencils, etc.).

Material is posted on NYU Classes e.g.:

Required Reading for Session 3:

Ecological Urbanism: The Nature of the City:

Assignment Mapping: “Neighborhood - Friedrichstraße” starts
and is due for Session 5.

Session 4 – 21 Feb 2017
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 3:
Mapping - Place and Neighborhood
and Discussion

Required Reading for Session 4:

On NYU Classes:
• Thoreau, Henry David, *Walking*. 1862.


• Readings on Mapping.

• Readings on the complete Neighborhood.

**Workshop Mapping II: “Neighborhood - Friedrichstraße”**
Group consultation with the professor.

Please remember to bring the work you produced during the previous week to class. If you have nothing to present, I cannot give you feedback on how to improve your assignment.

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### Session 5 – 28 Feb 2017

**Assignment Mapping: “Neighborhood - Friedrichstraße” is due.**

**Tour 2: Markthalle Neun**
Meeting point Markthalle Neun, Eisenzahnstr, Berlin-Kreuzberg.
Please remember to bring your art supplies (tracing paper, colored pencils, etc.).

**Project 1: Markthalle Neun starts.**

**Required Reading for Session 5:**

**On NYU Classes:**

• "Food and the City".
• Readings on Berlin and Kreuzberg.

**Website Reading:**
• Markthalle Neun: [https://markthalleneun.de/](https://markthalleneun.de/)

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### Session 6 – 7 March 2017

**Classroom St. Agnes**

**Lecture 4:**
**Specifying Place: Berlin as Built, and Re-built Form**
and Discussion

**Required Reading for Session 5:**

**On NYU Classes:**

Website Reading:
http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/natur_gruen/index_en.shtml
see under Landscape Planning:
• “The Berlin City Scape. An Analysis”, 5 pages.
• “The History of Open Space Development in Berlin”, 3 pages.
see under Urban Green Space:
• “The History of Berlin’s Urban Green Space”, 13 pages.

Workshop I: Mapping on “Markthalle Neun”

Please remember to bring your art supplies (tracing paper, colored pencils, etc.). Bring any visual material you’ve gathered of the Markthalle Neun to work on.

It is imperative that you have work produced for me to look at. If you have nothing to present, I cannot give you any meaningful feedback. Make sure to print as much visual material related to your project as possible. I am obviously not expecting a finished product; nonetheless, bringing in the work you’ve done is essential and the feedback you will receive will improve your mapping assignment.

14 March 2017: No Class – Spring Break

Session 7 – 21 March 2017

Tour 3: Luisenstadt
Meeting point Moritzplatz, subway station south-east exit

Session 8 – 28 March 2017
Classroom AC Prenzlauer Berg
Lecture 5:
Specifying Place: Berlin as Social and Biophysical Landscape and Discussion

Workshop II: Mapping on “Markthalle Neun”
Group and individual consultation with the professor.

Please remember to bring your art supplies (tracing paper, colored pencils, etc.). Bring any visual material you’ve gathered of the Markthalle Neun to work on.

It is imperative that you have work produced for me to look at. If you have nothing to present, I cannot give you any meaningful feedback. Make sure to print as much visual material related to your project as possible. I am obviously not expecting a finished product; nonetheless, bringing in the work you’ve done is essential and the feedback you will receive will improve your mapping assignment.
Required Reading for Session 8:

On NYU Classes:

- Chapter 4, "The Region and Sustainable Development", pp. 59-76.
- Chapters 5-7, “The Urban Park, City Metaphor, City Form”, pp. 77-157.


**Session 9 – 4 April 2016**
**Tour 4: Ufa Factory**
Meeting point will be announced.

Required Reading for Session 9:
- See website for Ufa Factory, [www.ufafabrik.de/en/](http://www.ufafabrik.de/en/)

**Session 10 – 11 April 2017**
**Tour 5: Prinzessinnengarten**
Meeting point will be announced.

Required Reading for Session 10:
- See website for Prinzessinengarten, [http://prinzessinnengarten.net/about/](http://prinzessinnengarten.net/about/)

**Session 11 – 18 April 2017**
**Project 1: Markthalle Neun is due.**
Your printed/graphic material should be emailed to me by midnight between 17th and 18th April. Anything sent after midnight will be considered late. You should have your boards printed out and hung up before the start of class!

Classroom AC Prenzlauer Berg
**Lecture 6:**
Now, What is Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism?
and Discussion

Tour 6: Spreefeld Berlin and Holzmarkt
Meeting point: Classroom, tour starts after lecture.

Required Reading for Session 11:

• See website for Spreefeld, alternation.at/spreefeld-berlin/
• See website for Holzmarkt, www.holzmarkt.com/

Selection Final Project.

Work on Final Project begins.

Session 12 – 25 April 2017
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 7:
Berlin Tomorrow. A Green City?
and Discussion

Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism Tomorrow
Debrief on Urban Sustainability and how working across scales changes what sustainability means, how it is meaningfully measured, etc.
A return to the introduction with a reflection on what we’ve learned and how it can be applied.

Required Reading for Session 12:

On NYU Classes:


Workshop Mapping on Final Project
Individual consultation with the professor.

Material will be posted on NYU Classes.
Please remember to bring your art supplies (tracing paper, colored pencils, etc.). Bring any visual material you’ve gathered for your project to work on.

Session 13 – 2 May 2017
Classroom AC Prenzlauer Berg
Final Project Workshop-Presentation in Progress
Required Reading for Session 13:

On NYU Classes:


Session 14 – 9 May 2017
Classroom AC Prenzlauer Berg

Final Project and Mapping
Individual consultation with the professor.

It is imperative that you have work produced for me to look at. If you have nothing to present, I cannot give you any meaningful feedback. Make sure to print as much visual material related to your mapping as possible. I am obviously not expecting a finished product; nonetheless, bringing in the work you’ve done is essential and the feedback you will receive will improve your mapping assignment.

Session 15 – 16 May 2017
Classroom St. Agnes

Presentation of Final Project

This research paper will be a set of 5 double-sized pages (10 normal pages) minimum. It is an examination of a core question and theme related to the final project. This material will be developed in a strategy that combines the classical research text with mapping components. It also includes a 10-minute presentation and discussion.

Your printed/graphic material should be emailed to me by midnight between 15th and 16th May.

Anything sent after midnight will be considered late. You should have your boards printed out and hung up before the start of class!

Classroom Etiquette

No cell phone use during class time. Computers may only be used in offline mode.
Required Co-Curricular Activities
To be announced in class.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
Additional visits to projects and actors who support the ideas of Urban Ecology as well as Urban Gardening, Urban Farming and Efficient City Farming.

Your Lecturer
Professor Sigismund Sliwinski (Dipl.Ing. Architekt) is a practicing architect in Berlin. His projects range from private to institutional work. He has won several competitions, has published and exhibited. He has taught Architecture and Design in Berlin and at several universities in the US, such as UT Knoxville, UVA Charlottesville and Parsons, New York. His research project on sustainability, originally commissioned by the WWF, Germany, has been transferred into a teaching strategy.