Course Title

Urban Greening Lab

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

SAMPLE SYLLABUS – ACTUAL SYLLABUS MAY VARY

Instructor Contact Information
Dipl. Ing. Architekt Sigismund Sliwinski
sigismund.sliwinski@nyu.edu

Course Details
Tuesdays, 4:00pm to 6:45pm
Location of class: NYUB St. Agnes
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:

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 Ecological Urbanism Berlin 10% 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.

Midterm, First Project 30% 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 instructor 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
- B+ = 3.3
- C+ = 2.3
- D+ = 1.3
- A- = 3.7
- B = 3.0
- C = 2.0
- D = 1.0
- B- = 2.7
- C- =1.7
- F = 0.0.

Attendance Policy

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in NYU Berlin’s content courses that, unlike most courses at NYU NY, meet only once per week in a double-session for three hours. 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. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach NYUB's Director or Wellness Counselor. Your professor or NYUB's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from the Director or Wellness Counselor. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Assistant Director for Academics or the Arts Coordinator, who will inform your professors.

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. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. 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. Five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, faculty is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, 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 Assistant Director for Academics; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. 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 because of any religious observance should notify their instructor AND NYUB's Academic Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If
examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will re-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.

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 instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, 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) Unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of the Director or Assistant Director), work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(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) 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).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor 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](http://www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies)

**Required Text(s)**

Course reader.

Books can be bought at *Saint Georges* bookshop in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB, where the books are pre-ordered for students. Students can re-sell their used books at the end of the semester to *Saint Georges* (with the exception of German language books). Additionally, one copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYUB's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.

Readers can be bought at *Sprintout* copy-shop (situated under the railway arches in front of Humboldt University's main library, the Grimm-Zentrum, in Georgenstraße / Universitätsstraße – S-Bahn-Bogen 190 - please allow five hours between booking and collecting readers).

**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. Appropriate clothing for tours.

Week 1 – 2 Feb 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Urban Greening Lab

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

Session 2 – 9 Feb 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 2 and Discussion
Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism 1
State of the Arts, different points of view.

Required Reading for Session 2:

Ecological Urbanism: The Nature of the City:
• Parts 1 and 2, What is it? and Three Models, pp. 1-32 and 33-84.

In Reader:
• Siemens AG, Corporate Communications and Government Affairs (editor), European Green City Index, p.1-37 and Berlin Profile, p. 46. Munich 2009.
• Thoreau, Henry David, Walking. 1862.

Website Reading:
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 Berlins Urban Green Space, 13 pages.

Workshop: Mapping the Green
Please remember to bring your art supplies (tracing paper, colored pencils, etc.).

Material is posted on NYU Classes e.g.:

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

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**Session 3 – 16 Feb 2016**

Classroom St. Agnes

**Lecture 3 and Discussion**

**Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism 2**

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

**Required Reading for Session 3:**

*Ecological Urbanism: The Nature of the City:*

• Parts 3 and 4, *What’s new?* and *Double Vision*, pp. 85-106 and 107-149.

*In Reader:*

Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout (editors), *The City Reader.*


**Workshop: Mapping the Green**

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.

**Assignment essay “Urban Ecology / Ecological Urbanism” due.**
Session 4 – 23 Feb 2016
Lecture 4 and Discussion
Specifying Place: Berlin as Social and Biophysical Landscape 1

Required Reading for Session 4:

In Reader:


Workshop: Mapping the Green
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.

Mapping Assignment is due during Session 5.

Session 5 – 1 Mar 2016
Tour 1: Ufa Factory
Meeting point will be announced.

Required Reading for Session 5:
See website for Ufa Factory, www.ufafabrik.de/en/
Classroom St. Agnes

Mapping Assignment is due.

First Project “UFA Fabrik” starts.

Session 6 – 8 Mar
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 5 and Discussion
Specifying Place: Berlin as Social and Biophysical Landscape 2

Required Reading for Session 6:

In Reader:
• Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, Modernism, Lifestyle Reforms, City and Nature Experiments in Urban Design in Berlin from 1900 to 1914, pp. 29-38.
• Annette Ciré, “Beyond the Metropolis”: Urban Design and Architecture of the “Country House Colonies” and Garden Cities in Berlin Suburbs before 1914, pp. 53-65.
• Nike Bätzner, Housing Projects of the 1920s A Laboratory of Social Ideas and Formal Experiment, pp. 149-159.
• Martin Kieren, The 1960s The Legacy of Modernism – Curse or Blessing?, pp. 283-293.
• Michael Heese, Rediscovering Architecture and the City, pp. 317-327.
• Gert Kähler, As the Steam Began to Rise ..., pp. 381-387.

Workshop: Mapping on “UFA Fabrik”
Group and individual consultation with the professor.

Ecological Urbanism: The Nature of the City:
• Parts One and Two, What is it? and Three Models, pp. 1-32 and 33-84.

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

Session 7 – 15 Mar 2016
Tour 2: Prinzessinnengarten, Spreefeld Berlin and Holzmarkt
Meeting point: Prinzessinnengarten am Moritzplatz, Berlin-Kreuzberg

Required Reading for Session 7:
• See website for Prinzessinengarten, http://prinzessinnengarten.net/about/
• See website for Spreefeld, alternation.at/spreefeld-berlin/
• See website for Holzmarkt, www.holzmarkt.com/.

Session 8 – 22 Mar 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Workshop: Mapping on “UFA Fabrik”
Group and 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 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.

29 Mar 2016: Spring Break – No Class
Session 9 – 5 Apr 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Midterm Presentation First Project “UFA Fabrik”.

Your printed/graphic material should be emailed to me by midnight between 4th and 5th April. Anything sent after midnight will be considered late. You should have your boards printed out and hung up before the start of class!

Session 10 – 12 Apr 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 6 and Discussion
Now, what is urban ecology / ecological urbanism?

Required Reading for Session 10:

In Reader:
• Mary L. Cadenasso and T. A. Pickett, Urban Principles for Ecological Landscape Design and Management: Scientific Fundamentals, pp. 1-16.

• Chapter 4, The Region and Sustainable Development, pp. 59-76.

On NYU Classes:
• Chapters 5-7, The Urban Park, City Metaphor, City Form, pp. 77-157.

Tour 3: Luisenstadt
Selection Final Project.

Work on Final Project begins.
Session 11 – 19 Apr 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 7 and Discussion
Berlin Tomorrow. A Green City?

Required reading for Session 12:

On NYU Classes:


Final Project and Mapping
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 12 – 26 Apr 2016
Tour 4 to be announced.
Meeting point will be announced.

Required Reading for Session 11:

See NYU Classes.

Session 13 – 3 May 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
Final Project and Mapping, Workshop-Presentation in Progress

Required Reading for Session 13:

On NYU Classes:

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 14 – 10 May 2016
Classroom St. Agnes
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 14:
TBA

Final Project and Mapping
Individual consultation with the professor.

Session 15 – 17 May 2016
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 16th and 17th 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 Instructor
Professor Sigismund Sliwinski (Dipl. Ing. Architekt) is a practicing architect in Berlin. His projects range from private to institutional work. His current projects include the conversion of a former foundry into a center for acting and dancing, a Waldorf School, as well as further private projects. 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.