COURSE DETAIL

SPATIAL PLANNING - AN EXPLORATION OF THE DISCIPLINE
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University
Program(s) Utrecht University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Geography
UCEAP Course Number 126
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title SPATIAL PLANNING - AN EXPLORATION OF THE DISCIPLINE
UCEAP Transcript Title SPATIAL PLANNING
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course discusses how typical spatial planning debates relate to wider societal challenges (i.e. planning as the “mirror of society”), but also to critically assess how spatial planning practices can therefore crystalize in very different ways from one planning context to the next. All of this is embedded in a thorough understanding of the fundamental concepts of urban and regional planning. Typical planning issues such as coordination between different spatial scales, sectoral and integrated planning approaches, dealing with scarcity, and flexibility vs. legal certainty are covered. Students are instructed through the pragmatic analytical concept of the planning triangle (object, process, context). This analytical framework helps to systematically relate the fundamental concepts of spatial planning to, on the one hand, the planning theoretical underpinnings and historical development of academic planning thought, and, on the other hand, to current planning dilemmas and practices in various planning systems (dominantly of the Netherlands, but also of other cases worldwide). Throughout the course, links are made to relevant planning methods and the role of the planner as ‘mediator’ in spatial planning processes. The course is structured around a series of lectures on basic concepts of spatial planning and putting these within the wider frame of current planning issues, theoretical debates and actual spatial planning practices and systems in the Netherlands and beyond. The lectures are supported by an academic handbook on spatial planning, that is in line with the pace and topics that are covered in the lectures. Students are encouraged to find supplementary academic and professional literature as theoretical underpinnings and empirical illustrations of their written products. The lectures and book are assessed by means of an individual written examination on the content of the course. Students work in groups on a jointly written group assignment.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
GEO2-3122

Host Institution Course Title SPATIAL PLANNING - AN EXPLORATION OF THE DISCIPLINE
Host Institution Course Details https://osiris-student.uu.nl/onderwijscatalogus/extern/cursus
Host Institution Campus Utrecht University
Host Institution Faculty Faculty of Geosciences
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

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