

CRP 407: Principles and Approaches of Ecology in Planning

Meets: 9:40 – 12:30, Thursday, Room 48

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INTRODUCTION

"Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"¹

To work at any spatial scale, planners need to have some basic knowledge on the principles and approaches of ecology. The debates on environmental conservation, ecological planning, renewable energy use, alternative energies, protected area management, sustainable waste and water management and so on relate to a wide interdisciplinary area of city and regional planners, biologists, engineers, economists, administrative scientists, sociologists. Ecology as a science of nature is a crucial element of planning for sustainable development, healthy environments and conservation. Urban sustainability approach, which puts environmental conservation as a threshold for development, has become a widespread approach in planning and design of urban areas all around the world. Planners are increasingly discussing

- how to reserve a room for the wildlife within the cities, protecting rare and endemic species;
- how to apply renewable and alternative energy uses in urban areas;
- how to integrate the ecological thinking in planning and policy making processes;
- how to raise public awareness and involvement in environmental conservation.

The course is designed to provide students with the basic ecological principles and approaches that should be paid attention in planning practices; dimensions of sustainable urban development, energy efficiency in urban areas.

ISSUES TO BE COVERED

- Basic concepts of ecology
- Landscape ecology
- Biodiversity and conservation assessment for planning
- Protected area management planning
- Using biological information on site and regional scales planning
- Sustainable development
- Dimensions of sustainable urban development: sustainable city approaches, housing, transportation, alternative energy uses, energy efficiency, water and waste management, green space in the city
- Institutions and legislation on environment (conservation & use)
- Citizen engagement for urban sustainability

EVALUATION

Mid-term exam (30%), Homework (30%), Final exam (40%)

¹ The term Sustainable Development was used for the very first time in the document, entitled **Our Common Future** (or publically known as the Brundtland Report), i.e. the output of the 1987 Conference of World Commission on Environment and Development.