History and Theory of African Urbanism and Architecture  (A005116)

Valid as from the academic year 2017-2018

Course Specifications

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Lagae, Johan

TW01 lecturer-in-charge

Course offerings in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2) English

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

Master of Arts in African Studies
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures

Teaching languages

English

Keywords


Position of the course

This course provides an introduction to and reflection on the development of the African city from the 19th century onwards, focusing on architecture and urban planning as disciplinary perspectives. The course highlights various aspects of theory and historiography of the African city and its urban form. Cultural, ideological, social and political issues related to this development are addressed. In that sense, this course situates the topic within the wider field of urban history, urban geography and urban culture.

Contents

The development of the African city from the late 19th century onwards is discussed and analyzed, focusing on the specific formal and spatial characteristics of its urban form. The analysis draws on a number of basic concepts and themes from current theory and historiography on architecture and urban planning, as well as from urban theory, but also on insights from relevant other disciplines such as postcolonial studies and cultural studies are introduced. Themes that are addressed include: urban mapping & visualization (photography); urban segregation; architecture, power and nation building; urban/architectural heritage; migration,… Current developments in the African city are discussed within a wider historical perspective and with attention for historiographical shifts. Concepts and themes are each time related and discussed via case-studies: Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Johannesburg, Cairo, Asmara,…

Initial competences

Bachelor in African Languages and Cultures or equivalent (after approval by the main lecturer).
Possessing some background in architecture and urbanism is useful, but not essential.
The content of the course is such that student with no such background can relate to the issues addressed. Yet having an interest in matters of (urban) space is recommended

Final competences

1 Have insight in the development of the African city from the late 19th century onwards and be able to name and discuss relevant themes and concepts related to the topic (using an apt terminology)
2 Be able to address the complexity and diversity of the current debates on the theory and historiography of the related domain of knowledge
3 Be able to develop a personal, critical reflection on a given or self-chosen theme

Contact hrs

50.0 h

Course size

(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 50.0 h

(Approved)
related to the domain of knowledge

4 Be able to report in English, both orally and in written form, a personal, critical reflection on a topic linked to the domain of knowledge. Possess the research skills needed to do so (tracing literature, defining a bibliography, using footnotes and an academic writing style,...)

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture

Learning materials and price

Elaborate powerpoint presentations as well as a reader with bibliography will be provided via Minerva

References

• an elaborate bibliography is provided
• in the library of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture a select number of reference works will be available for consultation during the semester.

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback is possible after lectures, or on appointment (via email)

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Calculation of the examination mark

60% on the oral examination, including oral assessment of the paper
40% on the written version of submitted paper