



Syllabus

Term: 2026/27/1 **Subject name:** Urban Geography **Subject code:** AFOLNA3301

Unit (Unit code) Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences (FOLDRAJZ)

Lecturer responsible for the course: Dr. PIRISI Gábor

Requirement: Exam

Classes per week : 2/2/0

Classes per term:

Purpose of education:

The aim of the course is to give an introduction of the fundamental terms, concepts and models regarding the spatiality of human settlements. Students will have an overlook about the differences and similarities in the urbanisation of the different regions around the globe. In the seminars supporting the course students will improve their skills in the field of spatial analysis. They will be able to recognise analyse and interpret the spatial processes, patterns of functions, morphology and social groups in urban and in rural space. They will be able to use databases to support these analysis, classify and evaluate settlements. During the course the students' skills in individual reading and interpreting scientific papers will be improved, and also their abilities in team-based problem solving, presentation and scientific writing. The curricular goal of the course is to lay down fundamentals to the course of "Urban planning and development"

Contents:

Week 1 Introduction to urban geography: object, goals, role and international research trends. Week 2 Basic terms and concepts in urban geography. The settlement, the types and classifications of settlements, cities, towns and villages. Basic and central functions of settlements. Walter Christaller's model of the urban network. Haggett's model and the role of urban settlements in the space production. Week 3 The geographical space and the settlements: role of the physical environment. Week 4 Connections between settlements: networks, hierarchy, catchment area, agglomeration. Urban and rural – dichotomy or continuum? Week 5 Settlements in rural space. Functional and morphological types of rural settlements. Week 6 Living in rural: social and economic problems of rural space. Rural restructuring and the post-rural space. Week 7 The temporality of urbanisation: before and after the industrial revolution. Week 8 Overall trends of the postmodern urbanisation in 21st century. Suburbanisation and consequences. Counter urbanisation, urban sprawl, post-suburbanisation. Week 9 The inner structure of the urban space. Functions and social groups in urban space. Segregation, gentrification, spatial conflicts. Models of urban space. Week 10 Regional differences of the urbanisation. The different models of the urban development and urban space use in the American, European, Latin-American, Asian and African cities. Week 11 The socialist and post-socialist urbanisation. Week 12 Cities and globalisation. Cities as the fundamentals of the 21st spatial structure. Competitiveness and success of cities. Week 13 Challenges of the present and the near future: shrinking, sustainability, resilience.

System of examing and valuation:

Evaluation is based on the individual performance in the seminar and in the final oral exam. The components are weighted with 40% (seminar) and 60% (oral exam). The seminary work will be evaluated as following: individual and team work in seminars: 30% field work 30% essay 40%



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Bibliography:

Reading assignments: Pacione, M. 2009: Urban Geography: A Global Perspective. Routledge, 744 p.

Recommended texts: [1] Hall, T. 2012: Urban geography. Routledge contemporary human geography series ; 7. Vol. 366 p. [2] Griffith, T. 2009: Urban geography : a study of site, evolution, pattern and classification in villages, towns and cities. London ; New York : Routledge 439 p. [3] Knox, P. 2000: Urban social geography : An introduction. Prentice Hall : Pearson Education, 479 p.

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