ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN

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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

History and Theory 5. The City and Contemporary Architecture

Reference	AC3014	Version	3
Created	April 2018	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	July 2016	SCQF Points	15
Amended	July 2018	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To provide the student with an understanding of the variety and evolution of urban form and its relationship with the environment through history, and present day mechanisms for planning and developing sustainable cities.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

1	Identify and describe a range of cities considered key examples of morphological and/or historical city-types, and explain their development in relation to their natural and cultural context.
2	Discuss in written academic format the factors affecting the sustainable development of a particular city.
3	Apply urban and rural theory to contemporary development issues.

Indicative Module Content

The module presents four different perspectives on the subject of urban settlements: a) The City in History: an historico-morphological survey of key city types and their main features; b) The City, Nature and Sustainability: an analysis of the relationship between city and nature, and its implications for sustainable development c) The City and its relationship to art and technology in society: to explain their development in relation to the natural and cultural context with an emphasis on cityscape as art of manifestation in built environment; public art as urban regenerator; factors affecting the sustainable development of a particular city such as spatial, social, and technological aspects of built environment; Introducing planning issues to inform community design process in contemporary urban development; d) The provision of Urban and Rural Planning in urban design: study of legislative and other dimensions at work in current planning processes. The module emphasizes writing (drawing and oral presentations to a lesser degree) as tools useful in understanding and describing the subject studied.

Module Delivery

This module is delivered by a blended learning approach focusing on directed student research, online activities, lectures and practical workshops. Lectures on various aspects of the development, sustainability and planning of the city introduce the broader picture. These are supplemented by tutorials and seminars intended to develop deeper understanding and self-directed learning.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	25	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	125	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	N/A
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	40%	Outcomes Assessed:	3

Description: The group coursework assesses application of theories of urban design on cities and methods of contextual analysis in a given site. Group of 5 will focus on a selected site, and follow through a series of workshops with real clients, and supported by corresponding lectures on theories of cities and urban design strategies. At the end of 10 weeks of interactive group works and discussion with tutors, individual group will present an idea of urban intervention into the given site. The coursework will be assessed by i) peer assessment (40%) and ii) tutor assessment (60%). Presentation techniques will include an A1 board, a booklet on research process.

Component 2

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	60%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2

Description: Individual coursework centres on the principles and application of various strands of theories of cities acquired through group work, tutorial discussion and library works. Submission of an A4 essay (3,000 words maximum) will be assessed with the help of the grading matrix. The feedback on the assessment will be given at the end of the semester.

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

In order to pass the module students must achieve 40% or greater in each component.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	70% or better
B	60% or better
C	50% or better
D	40% or better
E	35% or better
F	Less than 35%
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Additional bibliography presented in teaching plans and lectures.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1	Haughton, Graham & Hunter, Colin Sustainable Cities (Regions, Cities & Public Policies) Routledge 2003
2	Le Gates, R.T. and Stout, F. (eds), The City Reader, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 1999
3	Birksted, J. (ed), Relating Landscape to Architecture, 1999, SPON
4	Murdoch, J. and Marsden, T., Reconstituting Rurality, 1996, UCL Press
5	Larice, M. and Macdonald, E. The Urban Design Reader, 2007, Routledge.
6	The City Reader - Blackwell and Routledge Series.
7	Cuthbert, A. R. Understanding Cities, 2011, Routledge.