**COURSE SCENARIO**

***Interdisciplinary Approaches to Nature in Urban Setting***

**PART 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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| **SUBJECT/TOPIC** | *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Nature in Urban Setting* |
| **MODE (online, face-to-face, blended)** | *Blended* |
| **LEVEL (master, bachelor)** | *Bachelor* |
| **PREREQUISITES (courses to be taken before, if applicable)** | *Not available* |
| **SUMMARY / ANNOTATION OF THE CONTENT** | *This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the intricate relationship between nature and urban environments by integrating insights from both social anthropology and sociology and environmental science. Through a blend of theoretical discussions, case studies, fieldwork, and critical analysis, students will gain a holistic understanding of how human societies interact with and shape the natural world within urban contexts. By drawing from open access literature and fostering collaborative learning, this course seeks to foster critical thinking and engagement with pressing urban challenges. Through collaborative projects, discussions, and practical fieldwork, students are empowered to propose sustainable solutions for harmonizing urban development and ecological preservation in an ever-changing world.* |
| **THE AIMS OF THE COURSE** | *\* Understand the unique perspectives and methodologies of social anthropology and sociology in examining the complex interplay between nature and the city.**\* Explore how historical, cultural, and economic factors influence the ways urban communities perceive and interact with nature.**\* Develop the ability to critically analyze the impacts of urbanization on ecosystems, biodiversity, and environmental justice.**\* Investigate how social identities, such as class, race, and gender, intersect with access to and use of urban green spaces.**\* Acquire foundational ethnographic research skills to study human-nature relationships within urban settings.**\* Explore innovative solutions that promote sustainable coexistence between urban development and ecological preservation.* |
| **LEARNING OUTCOMES** | * Students are able to define key theoretical frameworks social anthropology and sociology that underpin the examination of the intricate relationship between nature and urban environments.
* Students are able to classify historical and cultural influences, categorizing and discussing the historical and cultural factors that have influenced the ways in which urban communities perceive, interact with, and shape the concept of nature within their environments.
* Students are able to notice and critically assess the ecological consequences of urbanization on local flora, fauna, and ecosystems, integrating insights from several disciplines to understand the broader implications.
* Students are able to analyze how social inequalities, including factors like class, race, and gender, manifest in the access to, perceptions of, and interactions with urban green spaces and nature.
* Students are able to apply ethnographic proficiency. Students will be equipped to apply foundational ethnographic research skills to investigate and document the complex and diverse relationships between humans and nature within urban settings.
* Students are able to formulate well-informed recommendations based on ethnographic research for policies or mediation that promote sustainable urban planning, environmental justice, and harmonious coexistence between urban development and ecological preservation.
* Students are able to integrate insights from social anthropology, ecology and sociology to propose holistic approaches for addressing urban challenges, showcasing their understanding of the complexities of urban-nature dynamics.
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| **STUDY AND ASSESSMENT METHODS** | *Students learn through collaborative projects, discussions based on learning material and practical fieldwork. Group discussions where students can engage in interdisciplinary conversations about the assigned readings and topics. Case studies and analysis provide students with real-world case studies that highlight the complex interactions between nature and the city.* *Ethnographic exercises where students conduct small-scale research in their local urban environments. This could involve observing public spaces, conducting interviews, or analyzing community dynamics related to urban nature.**Assessment methods include: critical analysis essays, ethnographic projects, group presentations, online discussions and final paper.* |
| **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | ***Social anthropology, fieldwork***1. Clifford Geertz (1973). "The Interpretation of Cultures." Basic Books.
2. Robert E. Park (1952). "Human Communities: The City and Human Ecology." Free Press
3. Nigel Rapport and Joanna Overing (2007). "Social and Cultural Anthropology: The Key Concepts." Routledge.
4. Robert M. Emerson, Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw (2011). "Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes." University of Chicago Press.

***Urban anthropology***1. Henri Lefebvre (1974). "The Production of Space." Blackwell Publishing.
2. David Harvey (1985). "The Urbanization of Capital." John Hopkins University Press.
3. Setha Low (2003). "Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America." Routledge.
4. Neil Smith (2002). "New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City." Routledge.
5. Mike Davis (2006). "Planet of Slums." Verso.
6. Soja, E. (1989). "Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory." Verso.
7. Eric Klinenberg (2002). "Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago." University of Chicago Press.
8. Tim Ingold (2000). "The Perception of the Environment: Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill." Routledge.
9. Anna Tsing (2005). "Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection." Princeton University Press.
10. Melissa Checker (2005). "Polluted Promises: Environmental Racism and the Search for Justice in a Southern Town." NYU Press.
11. James Holston (1998). "Spaces of Insurgent Citizenship." University of Georgia Press.
12. Michael Dove (2006). "Environmental Anthropology: A Historical Reader." Wiley-Blackwell.
13. Marianne Elisabeth Lien and Brigitte Nerlich (2004). "The Politics of Food." Berg Publishers*.*
14. *Setha Low lectura online on* how public space contributes to individual and societal flourishing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAtfqjAksgU>
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