Online seminar rules

General instructions

The seminar will be held as a synchronic course, with online connection by participants in order to conduct specific activities (see course calendar and description of activities, below).

The following online tools will be used:
- ISIS course ‘Planning as Political Process 1’ as a platform for general communication;
- Zoom online-meetings for plenary discussions and group presentations;
- PowerPoint presentations (made available on ISIS course) for seminar inputs and students’ contributions.

The rules of use for these tools are explained in the following:

**ISIS course ‘Planning as Political Process 1’:**
Registration by all participants is required before November 2.
The ISIS course will serve for general communication, for instructions, for making materials available (literature and PowerPoints), for forums, and for accessing Zoom online-meetings (link in ISIS course).
In general, participants are asked to be logged into the ISIS course and to have their email account available at the beginning of each seminar meeting. Further requirements are dependent on specific activities (see course calendar, below).

**Zoom online-meetings:**
This video conference tool will be used for plenary discussions and group presentations. The tool can be accessed through the link listed in the ISIS course.
Before each seminar meeting, participants of group A (10.00) and group B (12.00) are asked to connect to the seminar. Please be prepared to connect at the full hour (10.00 or 12.00) in order to be able to start the seminar at quarter past the hour (10.15 or 12.15). Please check your access to the Zoom meeting before the start of the seminar.
Please have your Internet and email connection ready at each seminar meeting.

When in a Zoom meeting:
- please choose a quite environment;
- please switch your microphone off in order to avoid background noise;
- switching your camera on is recommended (and mandatory when speaking);
- as a general rule, in order to avoid confusion, speaking is only allowed upon invitation by the moderator. The hand-raising screen symbol can be used to ask for right to speak.
**PowerPoint presentations:**
when applying, these will be made available through the ISIS course before the seminar meetings and will remain in the archive for the duration of the seminar. The presentations will be devoted mainly to inputs.

**Schedule**

*note: subject to adjustment in the course of the seminar*

03.11  1. Introduction to the course: topic, activities, requirements  
       Formation of ‘reading groups’

part I:  Reading groups

10.11  2. Power, advocacy and empowerment

17.11  3. Communicative planning and consensus-building

24.11  4. Communicative rationality and its critics

01.12  5. The rise of the ‘new urban politics’

08.12  6. The ‘post-political city’ – and beyond

15.12  7. Planning alternatives

part II:  Reflection

05.01  8. Plenary discussion, brainstorming and mind-mapping session  
       Formation of ‘thematic groups’

12.01  9. Thesis essay (individual)

part III: Thematic seminars (to be defined)

19.01  10.

26.01  11.

02.02  12.

09.02  13.

17.02  14.

**Literature**

*For each meeting, all texts are recommended reading; reading groups are assigned one mandatory reading for each session. Further texts may be occasionally suggested as additional readings.*

*Please read the text(s) carefully and prepare comments/observations for discussion in the seminar.*

part I:  Reading groups

10.11  2. Power, advocacy and empowerment


17.11 3. Communicative planning and consensus-building


24.11 4. Communicative rationality and its critics


01.12 5. The rise of the ‘new urban politics’


08.12 6. The ‘post-political city’ – and beyond


15.12 7. Planning alternatives


*Useful texts of general interest (suggested)* are:


*additional texts will be suggested in connection with thematic seminars.*

**General course information**

**Topic**

The seminar addresses the question of what is the ‘political’ in urban planning.

On the background of a tradition of planning theory reflecting on the political role and on the political process of planning, the seminar addresses developments of the last decades which question the nature of the ‘political’ in urban planning, raising new questions about this issue. These developments are associated in critical urban research with emergent phenomena – like the end of the Fordist era of industrial production, the ‘globalisation’ of the economy, the increasing internationalisation of urban relations, and related changes in democratic practices – and which are reflected in shifts in political discourse and practice concerning urban issues.

A significant focus of critical debate is recently on notions such as ‘neo-liberalism’ and ‘post-political’ or ‘post-democracy’. These are explored with reference in particular to local politics, urban issues, and to the role played by planning practices in face of such developments.

On the background of theoretical concerns with the ‘political’, the seminar directs attention to change in the nature and understandings of urban policy and relates this to change in planning practices and instruments.

These and further related questions are addressed through a discussion of theoretical contributions from urban studies as well as through the analysis of international case-studies. A specific attention will be devoted to shift in objectives and instruments of planning with regard to market dynamics of urban development and with regards to governance processes.

**Activities**

The seminar consists of joint activities, based on:
- discussions of the seminar literature (required and suggested), supported by inputs by the teacher;
- thematic seminars devoted to student presentations on chosen topics and to their discussion.

Language: English.

The portfolio-examination elements of the seminar can be completed in German language upon request.
**Thematic seminars**

After completing readings and discussion in part I and after an interim reflection in part II, the seminar enter part III, in which students are required to express their interest for a specific ‘thematic track’ (suggested by the teacher) and to form a group for this purpose. The groups are asked to make presentations starting from the related literature, according to a defined protocol (suggested by the teacher). The procedure is defined during the course of the seminar.

The presentations delivered by thematic groups count as requirements and are assessed as the second element of portfolio-examination.

**Learning resources**

All seminar resources including this syllabus, (selected) literature sources and comments/communications are made available on a dedicated ISIS2 course from the start of the semester (password-protected).

**Grading and evaluation**

Students are required to actively participate in the activities of the seminar.

Individual students’ assessment is based on active participation in discussions and colloquia during the seminar as well as on the presentation of an essay / written report at the end of the seminar; both examination elements are required for passing the seminar.

Assessment is in the form of a portfolio-examination.

Examination elements of final assessment are:
- presentations / active participation in colloquia (groups / individual) weighting: 50%
- essay / written report (in groups) weighting: 50%

The examination elements of the seminar can be completed in German language upon request.

The seminar can be attended as part of either Module M4 Planning Theory A (6 ECTS) or Module M4 Planning Theory B (9 ECTS). For detailed evaluation and grading rules, please refer to descriptions of Modules M4 Planning Theory A and M4 Planning Theory B.

**Deadlines**

- End of semester (March 31, 2021): submission of written reports (in digital/Pdf format).

**Consultation hour**

Please email for an online appointment: e.gualini@isr.tu-berlin.de