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 ‘Core Module Specialisation Area V: Urban and Regional Research’ as a platform for general communication;
- Zoom online-meetings for plenary discussions and group presentations;
- PowerPoint presentations with audio commentary (made available on ISIS course) for seminar inputs.

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

ISIS course ‘Core Module Specialisation Area V: Urban and Regional Research’:
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 are asked to connect to the seminar. Please be prepared to connect at the full hour (16.00) in order to be able to start the seminar at quarter past the hour (16.15).
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:
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 / Overview of the seminar:
Programme, requirements, presentation of participants (16:00-18:00)

10.11 2. I_Input: Introduction to the field of urban and regional research in Germany
II_Input: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design: an introduction

17.11 3. I_Input: Research funding institutions: e.g. the DFG (German Research Foundation)

24.11 4. I_Presentations: chosen topics
II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 2

01.12 5. I_Presentations: chosen topics
II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 3

08.12 6. I_Presentations: chosen topics
III_Colloquium: Research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research, 1

15.12 7. Presentations of draft research project: proposals and discussion, 1
I/II_Input: Design of research projects: e.g. the case of DFG (German Research Foundation)

05.01 8. Presentations of draft research project: proposals and discussion, 2
Presentations III: chosen topics, 1

12.01 9. Presentations III: chosen topics, 2
I_Input: Urban-regional research policy of the EU

19.01 10. Presentations III: chosen topics, 3
II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 4

26.01 11. II_Colloquium: Elements of research epistemology, methodology and design, 5

02.02 12. III_Colloquium: Research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research, 2

09.02 13. Presentations of draft research projects, 1

17.02 14. Presentations of draft research projects, 2

Literature

*notes:*
- specific texts will be assigned to specific dates in the course of the seminar;
- a selection of articles and chapters is made available as PDF on ISIS;
- additional readings will be suggested and/or provided in the course of the seminar in connection with specific topics.


**selected readings from:**


**General course information**

**Topic**

Specialisation Area V ‘Urban and Regional Research’ introduces students to the working field of urban and regional research. The thematic focus of the degree programme is enhanced by a focus on research. Students shall gain fundamental qualifications to work in basic or applied research.

The thematic focus of Specialisation Area V is on the different aspects of research in urban and regional planning. Diverse physical-geographical, politico-economic, socio-cultural, institutional and legal-administrative conditions on different spatial scales can play a role. Specialisation Area V teaches students to deal with a wide range of aspects in urban and regional planning from a scientific research perspective.

The core module Urban and Regional Research consists of an introduction to diverse dimensions of the field (such as problems of research policy and financing) and different conceptions and paradigms of urban and regional research. The most important steps of the research process are discussed, such as:

- generation/definition of a research issue,
- research design,
- methodological approach,
- writing a research proposal,
- organising the research process,
- project execution,
- reporting and presenting research findings.

Contents

The seminar addresses issues of planning research articulated in three focus areas:

- the field of urban and regional planning research;
- elements of research epistemology, methodology and design;
- research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research.

I. the field of urban and regional planning research

This focus offers explorations of the field of practice represented by urban and regional planning research in its various articulations (institutions, forms of research, forms of funding, forms of dissemination, forms of societal appraisal, etc.), with exemplary reference mainly to the specific context of Germany.

II. elements of research epistemology, methodology and design

This focus is a reflection on choices and dilemmas connected with the practice of urban and regional planning research in its social, political and cultural context. Rather than a course in research methods, this focus is an invitation to discuss and to reflect upon issues of research epistemology, design and ethics and connected responsibilities for the researcher, and also offers elements for their reflective application in the own research work.

III. research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research

This focus addresses the contingent specificity of research practice in urban and regional planning research in connection with social, political and cultural conjunctures, and reflects upon the way research issues and priorities are constructed in a interplay between demand and supply and between autonomy and dependence in specific contexts.

The three focus areas form the basic structure of the seminar, although overlappings are possible in the course of the seminar.

Activities

The seminar consists of three basic activities:

- inputs by the teacher on specific topic areas and/or examples in all three focus areas;

- colloquia, consisting of jointly reading and commenting/discussing selected literature, with reference mainly to focus area II research epistemology, methodology and design;

- presentations on chosen and/or assigned topics, with reference mainly to focus areas I the field of urban and regional planning research and III research areas, themes and traditions in urban and regional research.

In addition, interim and final presentations concerning students’ main assignment (draft of research project) will be scheduled during the seminar.

Learning resources

All seminar resources – including this syllabus, (selected) literature sources and comments/communications – are made available on a dedicated ISIS course at 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 and their weighting (in %) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination element</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral contribution to seminar (colloquia, presentations etc.)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft of research project (presentation with written report)</td>
<td>75%</td>
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Examination requirements

- draft of a research project (presentation with written report):
  
  students (individually) develop a draft research project (intended as a simulation of a research proposal) on a topic of their own choice.

  The draft must not be fully worked out in all details, but:
  a. it must be complete and comprehensive in complying with all relevant elements of a research proposal according to models recognized by the scientific community),
  b. it must take reflectively into account issues of research epistemology, methodology, design and ethics as discussed in particular in focus III of the seminar.

  It is recommended that the topic is chosen in connection with and in preparation of the Specialisation Thesis, such as to serve as a preliminary work for it.

  The final result is presented orally at the end of the seminar and submitted as a written report after the end of the seminar (deadline t.b.d.).

- oral contributions to the seminar:

  as part of their active engagement, students are required to contribute to colloquia and presentations during the seminar.

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