

## Urban Questions in Historical Perspective 1: Housing (E084111)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 3.0**

**Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

15.0h

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Kockelkorn, Anne

TW01

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

**crdts**

**offering**

[Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Architecture](#)

3

A

[Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

3

A

[Master of Science in Urbanism and Spatial Planning](#)

3

A

[Exchange Programme Urbanism and Spatial Planning](#)

3

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture\(main subject Architectural Design and Construction Techniques\)](#)

3

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture\(main subject Urban Design and Architecture\)](#)

3

A

[Elective Set Architecture for Art Historians](#)

3

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Histories of urbanism, urban planning and housing; urban theory; urban development

**Position of the course**

This course investigates the history of urbanization through housing provision from liberal capitalism in the late 18th century to financialized capitalism in the present. Why is the housing question crucial for urban development and how does it affect urban planning and design? This course analyses how housing reproduces society in different historical constellations whilst operating as a driver of urban development and a means of social reproduction. If the architecture of housing mediates the power relations between housing providers, owners and users of dwelling space, the close reading of a repertoire of housing projects helps to uncover the urban dimension of the housing question – the latter being understood as a conflict between the rights of exploitation of land and housing by those who own it and broader socio-political claims to the form, function and location of housing as an urban infrastructure.

**Contents**

- Introduction: The relation between housing, urbanization and society. Contemporary challenges of the housing question
- 1. The housing question in liberal capitalism: From industrialization to the modern tenement and the speculative city.
- 2. The housing question in early state-managed capitalism and socialism: From municipal social housing to modern politics of land reform.
- 3. The housing question during post-war boom years: From territorial intervention in the Global South to the decline of large-scale housing in the Global North.

**Initial competences**

No specific previous knowledge required.

### Final competences

- 1 Technical terminology:
  - to identify and name housing typologies, morphologies, urban development strategies and different types of housing tenure.
- 2 Historical knowledge:
  - to correctly situate housing types, housing development strategies and key projects; to relate housing types, housing development strategies and key projects to the socio-economic, political and cultural conditions that made them possible.
- 3 Theoretic understanding:
  - understand the housing question as an urban question in a given historic context;
  - understand the intertwining between housing and urban infrastructure (technical, social and cultural infrastructures);
  - understand how architectural and urban housing designs operate as economic models and tools for social reproduction in different historic constellations.
  - understand the impact of housing regulation and housing development on urbanisation, social reproduction and the constitution of subjectivity.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### Teaching methods

Lecture

### Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Stedelijke vraagstukken in historisch perspectief: huisvesting

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Additional information: Available to consult in the library

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Additional information: Online, free of charge via the online learning platform

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Additional information: Online, free of charge via the online learning environment.

Type: Reader

Name: Readings

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Additional information: Online, free of charge via het online learning platform

Type: Handouts

Name: miro-board with project overview, glossary and list of key projects

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : No

Online Available : Yes

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: Lecture Recordings

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Additional information: Online, free of charge via the online learning environment

## References

- Avermaete, Tom, Janina Gosseye. *Urban Design in the 20th Century. A History*. Zurich: gta Verlag, 2021.
- Bauer, Catherine. *Modern Housing*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2020 (1934).
- Benevolo, Leonardo. *The European City*. Oxford/Cambridge, MA, Blackwell: 1993 (1960).
- Glendinning, Miles. *Mass Housing. Modern Architecture and State Power – A Global History*. London, New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021.
- Hayden, Dolores. *The Grand Domestic Revolution*. Cambridge (MA); London, 1981.
- Mumford, Eric. *Designing the Modern City. Urbanism Since 1850*. New Haven, London: Yale University Press, 2018.
- Sevilla-Buitrago, Álvaro. *Against the Commons. A Radical History of Urban Planning*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022.
- Smets, Marcel. *De ontwikkeling van de tuinvijkgedachte in België*. Brussel/Luik: Mardaga, 1977.
- Yates, Alexia. *Real Estate and Global Urban History*. Cambridge (UK): Cambridge University Press, 2021.

## Course content-related study coaching

The teacher and his collaborators are available for questions during and in-between courses.

## Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

## Extra information on the examination methods

During examination period: written closed-book exam

## Calculation of the examination mark