Course Title

**Greening Berlin:**
**Urban Ecology and Forging the Sustainable City**

Course Number
SCA-UA.9650001, ENVST-UA.9495001

**Last updated on:** 20-Aug-2014

**Instructor Contact Information**
Dipl. Ing. Architekt Sigismund Sliwinski
sigismund.sliwinski@nyu.edu

**Course Details**
**Fall 2014**
Tuesdays, 3:30pm to 6:15pm
Location of class: NYUB, Room “Prenzlauer Berg”
Tour meeting points will be announced, please check your email the night before class.

**Prerequisites**
None

**Units earned**
4

**Course Description**
Comprehensive examination of Berlin’s urban ecology and urban planning approaches, introducing their history, and the correlations between the city’s built structure, urban nature and culture. Combination of lectures, workshops and site visits to several facets of Berlin’s ‘green’ past and present.

Investigation of Berlin’s ‘green’ structures in relation to the economic, socio-cultural, and political processes that shape it with an emphasis on sustainable ideas and projects and how they influence Berlin’s built structure.

Reading-intensive course meets for 2.5 hours per week.

**Course Objective**
This is a reading-intensive and fieldwork-intensive course, through which we will explore the history of urban change in Berlin. We will focus on the long-term processes that have made the city a contemporary global green icon. In addition to completing all readings and attending all course sessions, you will complete:
• **A set of course maps.** Each student will prepare a set of maps, based on field site visits and seminar content in relation to selected projects. Mapping is a specific data communication strategy that will be explained in class.

• **A mid-semester presentation of your first project.** Each student will prepare and present the core research questions they are examining and explain their methodological approach. This material will be developed in a strategy that combines the classical research text with mapping, a data communication strategy that will be explained in class. Projects will be presented in a workshop session so that colleagues in the course can offer feedback and pose questions.

• **A final independent project presentation, given to the class and open to the NYU Berlin community.** This 10 minutes presentation, together with the accompanying material that is based on the above mentioned strategy combining research text, with mapping (minimum 20 pages DIN A3) will serve as your final exam for the course.

• **A field notebook,** minimum 20 pages DIN A4, to be used to record data during site visits. This notebook will be collected and evaluated regularly.

### Assessment Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Field notebook</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

### Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

**Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

### Grade Conversion
NYU Berlin uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- B+ = 87-89
- C+ = 77-79
- D+ = 67-69
- F = below 65
- A = 94-100
- B = 84-86
- C = 74-76
- D = 65-66
- A- = 90-93
- B- = 80-83
- C- = 70-73

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in NYU Berlin’s content courses that, unlike most courses at NYU NY, meet only once per week in a double-session for three hours. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately. Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach NYUB's Director or Wellness Counselor. Your professor may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from the Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: in content courses each unexcused absence leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two unexcused absences lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Faculty is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should notify the Director or Assistant Director for Academics in advance of the anticipated absence. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will re-schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments.

Late Submission of Work
(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.
(3) Unless an extension has been approved, work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form. All assignments in this course will be checked for plagiarism using TurnItIn.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

Required Text(s)

Course reader.
Books can be bought at Saint Georges in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB; readers can be bought at Sprintout behind Humboldt University (Georgenstraße/Universitätstraße – S-Bahn-Bogen 190 please allow five hours between booking and collecting readers).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
Various supplemental texts will be posted on NYU Classes from the following sources:

**Internet Research Guidelines**
To be discussed in class.

**Additional Required Equipment**
City map with an index of the street names, for example *Falk Plan*, journal/sketchbook, digital camera and transportation ticket.
Appropriate clothing for the tours

**Session 1 – 2 Sept 2014**
Readings and assignments are due for each session.

**Greening Berlin: Urban Ecology and Forging the Sustainable City**
Classroom “Prenzlauer Berg”, General Introduction to the course.

**Specifying Place: Berlin as Built, and Re-built Form**
**Seven Phases of Greening**
Lecture 1 and discussion of the reading:

**Tour 1: Prinzessinnengärten**
See website Prinzessinnengarten, http://prinzessinnengarten.net/about/

**Session 2 – 9 Sept 2014**
**Tour 2: Tempelhofer Feld**
Meeting point will be announced.

**Why Urban Ecology?**
State of the Arts, different points of view, discussion.
Reading due for Session 2:


Additional Reading:
- *The Berlin City Scape an Analysis*, 5 pages.
see under Urban Green Space:

**Assignment essay 1 “Why Urban Ecology?”**
is due for Session 3.

First Project “Tempelhofer Feld” is starting.

**Session 3 – 16 Sept 2014**
*What is Urban Ecology?*
Lecture 2 and workshop on mapping and discussion

Reading due for Session 3:


**Assignment essay 1 “Why Urban Ecology?”** due.

**Session 4 – 23 Sept 2014**
*Tour 3: Holzmarkt, Spreefeld and Mediaspree*
Meeting point will be announced.

Reading due for Session 4:
See website Holzmarkt, www.holzmarkt.com/
See website Spreefeld alternation.at/spreefeld-berlin/

Assignment essay 2 “What is Urban Ecology?” due.

Session 5 – 30 Sept 2014
Specifying Place: Berlin as Social and Biophysical Landscape
Lecture 3 and workshop on mapping and discussion

Reading due for Session 5:

Additional Berlin specific readings from the book:
• Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, Modernism, Lifestyle Reforms, City and Nature Experiments in Urban Design in Berlin from 1900 to 1914, pp. 29-38.
• Annette Ciré, “Beyond the Metropolis”: Urban Design and Architecture of the “Country House Colonies” and Garden Cities in Berlin Suburbs before 1914, pp. 53-65.
• Nike Bätzner, Housing Projects of the 1920s
A Laboratory of Social Ideas and Formal Experiment, pp. 149-159.
• Martin Kieren, The 1960s
The Legacy of Modernism – Curse or Blessing?, pp. 283-293.
• Michael Heese, Rediscovering Architecture and the City, pp. 317-327.
• Gert Kähler, “As the Steam Began to Rise …”, pp. 381-387.

Workshop Mapping: material will be posted on server e.g.:

First Project and mapping
Individual consultation with the professor.
Session 6 – 7 Oct 2014
Tour 4: Ufa Factory
Meeting point will be announced.

Reading due for Session 6:
See website Ufa Factory, www.ufafabrik.de/en/

First Project and mapping
Individual consultation with the professor.

14 Oct 2014 – No Class (Fall Break)

Session 7 – 21 Oct 2014
Midterm Presentation of the “Tempelhofer Feld” Project.

Session 8 – 28 Oct 2014
Now, what is urban ecology?
Lecture 4 and workshop on mapping and discussion

Reading due for Session 8:

Material will be posted on NYU Classes.


Material will be posted on NYU Classes.

Selection of Independent Project is due!

Workshop Mapping: material will be posted on NYU Classes e.g.:


**Mapping on Independent Project is starting!**

**Session 9 – 04 Nov 2014**
**Final Project and Mapping**
Workshop on mapping and discussion

Reading due for Session 9, material will be will be posted on the server: *Post Oil City: The History of the City’s Future. Arch+* 196-197. January 2010, approx. 70 pages.


Individual consultation with the professor.

**Session 10 – 11 Nov 2014**
**Tour 5: Green Berlin, special project.**
*(Malzfabrik, ExRotaprint, RAW)*
Meeting point will be announced.

**Final Project and mapping**
Individual consultation with the professor.

**Session 11 – 18 Nov 2014**
**Berlin tomorrow, a green city?**
Lecture 5 and workshop on mapping and discussion

Reading is due for Session 11, material will be posted on NYU Classes:


**Final Project and mapping**
Individual consultation with the professor.
Session 12 – 25 Nov 2014
Final Project and mapping, Workshop-Presentation in progress

Session 13 – 02 Dec 2014
Urban Ecology, the forces that shape it
Lecture 6 and workshop on mapping and discussion

Reading:
On urban community forestry and its eco-social benefits:
http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/treesforpeople.html


Qui Parle, Spring / Summer 2012 / Vol. 19, No. 2.

Final Project and Mapping
Individual consultation with the professor

Session 14 – 09 Dec 2014
Sustainable Urbanism tomorrow
Lecture 7 and discussion.
Debrief on Urban Sustainability
and how working across scales (local/national/global) changes what sustainability means, how it is meaningfully measured, etc.
A return to the introduction with a reflection on what we’ve learned and how it can be applied.

Final Project and mapping
Individual consultation with the professor

Session 15 – 16 Dec 2014
Presentations of the final project

Classroom Etiquette
To be announced in class.
Required Co-curricular Activities
To be announced in class.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Additional visits to projects and actors who support the ideas of:
Urban Gardening, Urban Farming and Efficient City Farming.

Your Instructor
Professor Sigismund Sliwinski (Dipl. Ing. Architekt) is practicing in Berlin. His projects range from private to institutional work. Current projects include a Waldorf School and a department store for sleeping and living. He has won several competitions, has published and exhibited. He has taught Architecture and Design in Berlin and at several universities in the US, such as UT Knoxville, UVA Charlottesville and Parsons New York. His research project on sustainability, originally commissioned by the WWF Germany, was transferred into a teaching strategy.