

# Urban political economy

## Lecturer

Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator)

## Course mnemonic

GEOG-F428

## ECTS credits

5 credits

## Language(s) of instruction

English

## Course period

First term

## Campus

Plaine

contemporary urban issues such as metropolitan development, urban policies, socio-spatial inequalities, gentrification and urban alternatives.

## Teaching method and learning activities

ex cathedra lectures, with room for interactions

## References, bibliography and recommended reading

see reader on UV

## Course notes

Université virtuelle

## Course content

The course is divided up in 8 lectures

- 1 Introduction - the city as social product
- 2 The production of urban space under capitalism
- 3 The neoliberal city
- 4 New urban policies: urban governance and the entrepreneurial city
- 5 Culture as urban regenerator?
- 6 (Non-)Gentrification
- 7 Ordinary urbanizations
- 8 On urban alternatives (with W. Koblowski, VUB)

## Objectives (and/or specific learning outcomes)

The course explores (some of) the social forces that produce contemporary urban space. It aims at challenging mainstream representations reducing urban issues to management problems (how to?) by bringing to the forefront the deeply political nature of urban issues (for/against whom? who decides?). To this end, the contours of the now-dominant configuration of capitalism (i.e. neoliberalism) and the role of major drivers of urban change (i.e. rent-seeking investors, property developers, governments and related state agencies) are brought here centre-stage. Eventually, the course makes the case for re-politicization of some pressing

## Other information

### Place(s) of teaching

Plaine

### Contact(s)

mathieu.van.criekingeng@ulb.ac.be

## Evaluation method(s)

written examination and Personal work

## Determination of the mark (including the weighting of partial marks)

50% exam, 50% assignment (essay)

## Main language(s) of evaluation

English

## Programmes

### Programmes proposing this course at the faculty of Sciences

MA-GEOG | Master in Geography : General | finalité Erasmus  
Mundus Urban studies/unit 1 and finalité Urban studies (ULB-VUB)/unit 1