



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Brick, Stone and Water: The Body and the City/ Plyta, akmuo ir vanduo: kūnas ir miestas	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Almantas Samalavičius	Department of English Philology, Faculty of Philology

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
MA	Elective

Mode of delivery	The period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Seminars, walking tours in Vilnius: exploring the city	Autumn	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: English C 1	Additional requirements (if any):

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	150	32	118

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed
<p>The course's purpose is to explore the complex interrelationship between human beings and the urban environments they inhabit. Through historical, theoretical, and sensory perspectives, the course examines how cities in the East and West have evolved and how these transformations have shaped and been shaped by the human experience. Emphasis is placed on architectural proportions, the role of public and private spaces, and the relationship between the urban landscape and the human body. By engaging with key thinkers such as Patrick Geddes, Lewis Mumford, and Ivan Illich, students will gain an understanding of the theoretical frameworks of urban development. The course also includes experiential learning through walking tours in Vilnius, where students will explore traditional cityscapes and examine themes such as the sensory aspects of urban life and the interaction between nature and the city.</p> <p>Upon completion of the course, students will develop the following subject-specific competences: Ability to "read" and interpret the built environment: Students will gain skills to analyze and understand their immediate surroundings, considering architectural styles, urban layouts, and how these reflect historical, cultural, and societal influences. Ability to understand the significance and symbolism of urban spaces: Students will learn to appreciate the deeper meanings embedded in architectural and spatial designs, recognizing the role of the built environment in shaping identity, cultural values, and</p>

<p>collective memory. Ability to comprehend the relationship between the human body and urban structures: Students will explore how cities and physical spaces are designed in relation to the human body, considering scale, accessibility, and the sensory experience of navigating urban landscapes. Ability to make qualified judgments about urban environments: Students will be equipped to critically evaluate urban settings, applying theoretical frameworks and personal insights to assess the functionality, aesthetic quality, and social impact of different types of urban design and infrastructure.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
<p>The learning outcomes for the course unit/module will encompass the following:</p> <p>Students will acquire a thorough understanding of the historical evolution and theoretical frameworks surrounding the development of cities in both Eastern and Western contexts.</p> <p>By studying the relationship between architecture and human proportions, students will be able to critically analyze their built environment, recognizing its influence on societal behaviors and cultural symbolism.</p> <p>Students will explore the dynamics between human bodies and urban structures, enabling them to understand how spatial design impacts human experiences, sensory perceptions, and interactions within public spaces.</p> <p>Through examining classical and modern urban designs, students will develop the ability to make qualified assessments of urban environments, focusing on factors like functionality, aesthetic appeal, and the socio-cultural implications of various architectural styles.</p> <p>The course will foster an appreciation of how water, nature, and other natural elements are integrated into urban spaces, helping students recognize the role of cities in promoting sustainability and human well-being.</p> <p>Engaging in walking tours and interactive seminars, students will apply theoretical knowledge to real-world settings, refining their ability to “read” and interpret urban landscapes, and deepening their connection to the physical and cultural aspects of their surroundings.</p>	<p>The methods include:</p> <p>Lectures will provide a foundational understanding of key concepts and theories related to urban development, architecture, and human proportions. These sessions will introduce students to influential ideas from thinkers like Patrick Geddes and Lewis Mumford, offering a structured overview of historical and contemporary urban landscapes.</p> <p>Seminars will encourage active participation and critical discussion. Students will analyze readings, discuss urban morphology, and explore the sensory experiences associated with urban spaces. This interactive format will help students develop their analytical and interpretative skills as they examine how urban environments shape human interactions.</p> <p>Walking tours in Vilnius will serve as experiential learning opportunities where students can observe and interpret the built environment firsthand. They will explore themes like public spaces, the role of water, and the integration of nature into urban settings, linking theoretical knowledge with real-world experiences.</p> <p>Students will conduct research-based presentations, which will allow them to investigate specific topics in</p>	<p>The assessment methods for this course are designed to evaluate students’ understanding, engagement, and analytical skills through a combination of participation, presentation, and examination:</p> <p>Participation in Seminars and Walking Tours (20%): This component evaluates students’ active involvement in seminars and walking tours, where they will be assessed on their engagement with the material, contributions to discussions, and ability to connect theoretical knowledge to real-world urban observations.</p> <p>Oral Presentation (30%): Students will conduct an oral presentation on a chosen topic related to the course themes. This will assess their research skills, depth of understanding, and ability to communicate their insights effectively. Presentations should demonstrate an ability to analyze urban phenomena, interpret the relationship between the human body and urban spaces, and present a well-structured argument.</p> <p>Final Examination (50%): The final exam will test students’ comprehension of the core concepts covered in the course, including urban development theories, architectural symbolism, and</p>

	<p>depth, present findings to peers, and receive feedback. This will not only enhance their research and public speaking skills but also deepen their understanding of urban studies.</p> <p>Exercises related to urban exploration will encourage students to document and analyze aspects of the urban environment. These practical tasks will help them apply theoretical insights to everyday city experiences, refining their observational and interpretive abilities.</p>	<p>the relationship between urban environments and human experience. This exam will evaluate both their theoretical knowledge and their ability to apply this knowledge to interpret the urban environment critically.</p>
--	--	--

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
Introduction: What is a City? The Rise and Development of City in the West and the East.	2						2		Reading materials for the course will be assigned throughout the semester
The Urban History in Theory: The Scheme of Urban Development According to Patrick Geddes and Lewis Mumford.	2		2				2		Reading materials for the course will be assigned throughout the semester
Architecture and Human Proportions. The City of Human Dimensions: Classical/Traditional Urbanism.	2		2				2		Reading materials for the course will be assigned throughout the semester
The Transformation of Relationship Between City and Human Body Since Antiquity. The Loss of Proportions: Modernity and the Modern City. High-Rise City.	2		2				2		Reading materials for the course will be assigned throughout the semester
Public Spaces and the Human Body. The City and the Senses: Privacy and Publicity. The Eye, the Ear, the Touch, and the Smell.	2		2				4		Reading materials for the course will be assigned throughout the semester
Water, Body, and the City.	2		2				4		Reading materials for the course will

									be assigned throughout the semester
Walking Tours in Vilnius: Exploring the City. Themes: The Traditional City and Body: Experiencing the Old Quarters; Public Spaces in Vilnius; Water in the City; Nature in the City.			6					12	
Students' research-based presentations.			4					4	
Total: 32	12		20						

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
The assessment strategy for this course is designed to evaluate students continuously throughout the semester and culminate in a final examination.	20 + 30 + 50 →	Throughout the semester →	The assessment criteria for this course are based on three key components: active participation in seminars and walking tours, as well as presentations of summaries, which make up 20 percent of the final grade; the presentation of an oral report, which accounts for 30 percent; and, finally, a comprehensive examination, which constitutes 50 percent of the final grade.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or weblink
Reading Materials				
Alaimo, Stacy.	2010	<i>Bodily Natures. Science, Environment, and the Material Self.</i>		Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
Mumford, Lewis	1996	<i>The City in History</i>		Harcourt Brace and the World.
Sennet, Richard	1996	<i>Flesh and Stone: The Body and the City in Western Civilisation</i>		WW. Norton and Co.
Steward, Jill, Cowan, Alexander	2007	<i>The City and the Senses: Urban Culture since 1500</i>		New York: Routledge
Illich, Ivan	1985	<i>H2O and the Waters of Forgetfulness</i>		Dallas: Dallas Institute of Humanities
Palasmaa, Juhani	2012	<i>The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses</i>		Hoboken: Wiley and Sons
Alexander, Christopher	1977	<i>A Pattern Language</i>		Oxford: Oxford University Press
Rasmussen, Steen Eiler	1995	<i>Experiencing Architecture</i>		Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press
Samalavičius, Almantas		<i>Lithuanian Architecture and Urbanism</i>		Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing
Samalavičius, Almantas	2011	<i>Ideas and Structures: essays in Architectural History</i>		Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock

Updated: