Corso Avanzato di Lingua Inglese per l'Ambiente
C1 Advanced English Language Lecture and Seminar Course (CEFR Livello C1)
"ECOLOGICAL URBANISM"

Course Program

The course is structured thematically in three phases.

1. The **first phase** will consist of weekly slide lectures, readings and video screenings followed by occasional seminar discussions. Students will begin to research and prepare material for thematic presentations introduced below.
2. Thematic presentations will be **presented orally with slides during the second phase**, with the results also being compiled into a **written report**.
3. During the **final phase** there will be an optional **short oral exam** to evaluate students' comprehension of the lectures and readings. Students may pass the course but not receive excellence points without doing the oral exam.

GRADING
The final evaluation will be based on the student's performance on the presentation (50%), written paper (40%), and oral exam (10%).

Excellence points will be granted to those students performing outstandingly in the course in all three phases above, based on a. research

Learning Objectives

- Gain theoretical and practical experience around issues of sustainability and urban design.
- Learn about cities around the world and their specific approaches to ecology.
- Apply English-language verbal, written, interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills in a variety of professional and/or cultural contexts, including the online context.
- Learn to engage with simple project management and communications applications to foster critical understanding of project-based communication.
- Develop a greater appreciation of career opportunities while more clearly defining personal goals.
- Develop and improve time, stress management, and problem-solving skills.
- Observe, analyze, and apply professional behaviors in businesses and organizations.
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative, and responsibility.

- Learn how to create and track learning outcomes
- Document knowledge and skills learned during the internship.
- Learn how to work collaboratively as part of a team with specific goals.

THEMES

1. **Water**. Where does it come from, where does it go, how is it managed? What effect does the recognition of the limits of clean water have on urban development?
2. **Green Space**. What is the role of green space in the city? How can it be defended and improved?
3. **Urban Fabric**. How does the choice of where to site buildings, how to plan and regulate development, impact the city's performance?
4. **Energy**. Where does it come from and how is it managed? What are the true costs vs. the economic costs? What strategies exist to reduce the energy consumption (and subsequent emissions) related to urban development?
5. **Waste**. What happens to the solid and liquid waste produced by human inhabitation? Where does it go, how is it managed, and how can it be reduced or eliminated, or at least turned into a resource?
6. **Transportation**. How do people move around the city and between cities and what are the environmental and personal costs?
7. **Community**. What role do stakeholders play in the development of more environmentally sustainable cities? How is participation essential to ecological urbanism?

Assignment:

This year the course workshops will address proposals and projects for CARBON NET ZERO CITIES as a concept with a look at case studies around the world.

Europe has pledged to lead on climate action and has set forth ambitious goals and directives to achieve that commitment. The Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe research and innovation programmes, the European Green Deal and other European Union policies and directives propel European Member States towards a 55% cut in emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

As part of the Horizon Europe programme, the EU has launched a Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030". The objectives of the mission are to achieve 100 climate-neutral and smart European cities by 2030 and to ensure that

these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050.

Students will choose one of these cities as a case study, evaluating the intentions, strategies, and implementation of the plan.

Student should work in groups of 3-4 although you may also request to do the work individually if special situations warrant it. A form to sign up will be included in Classroom after the first lesson.

Each student in the group will address a discrete phenomenon to research and present, but these components must be coordinated by the group to comprise a unified presentation.

Presentations will be given orally in the classroom, in English, with the support of digital slides (power point, etc.). Each student should speak for between 3 and 5 minutes.

Written reports must be between 1000-1500 words per student, clearly indicating the author of each section. Illustrations and graphics should be clearly labeled and all quotations must be credited to their source.

Submit your Slides as a pdf (or powerpoint if necessary but pdf is preferred) by 12:00 on the day of your presentation.

Note: Written Reports should be formatted A4 and submitted digitally in pdf format by May 30, 2026. A separate assignment will be created for the written reports.

Bibliography

The principal articles read in the course are listed in the program and will be provided digitally in Classroom. Below are additional suggested readings for students who want to learn more:

Mohsen Mostafavi, (Editor), *Ecological Urbanism*, Lars Müller Publishers; 1 edition, 2010

Rifkin, Jeremy. *The Third Industrial Revolution*. 2010. *Available on-line

William McDonough and Michael Braungart, *Cradle to Cradle*. New York, NY: Northpoint Press, 2002.

Mitchell, William J. *Me++ The Cyborg Self and the Networked City*. MIT Press, 2004.

Brown, Lester. *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*. W.W. Norton & Co. 2008.

Sassen, Saskia. “Seeing Like a City” in Burdett, Ricky, ed. *The Endless City*. Phaidon. 2007

Ratti, Carlo, The City of Tomorrow: Sensors, Networks, Hackers, and the Future of Urban Life, Yale University Press, 2016

Rankin, Thomas Greene. *Rome Works: An Architect Explores the World’s Most Resilient City* Peruzzi Press, 2015.

Speck, Jeff. Walkable City. http://www.petkovstudio.com/bg/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Walkable-City.pdf New York, 2017