

Smart Cities and Urban Informatics (SCUI)

2022/2023

Academic Head and Advisor: Prof. Daniel Felsenstein
E-mail : daniel.felsenstein@mail.huji.ac.il
Office: Social Sciences Faculty, Room 5412
Office hours: Tuesdays from 12:00-13:00 or by appointment
Tel.: 02-5883843

Course of Study

Non-research track

The M.A. program consists of 37 credits over two consecutive semesters: 15 credits are core courses, 8 credits are methods, 10 credits thematic courses. Four credits are from a seminar paper to be written in one of the courses indicated with an asterisk (*). Students are required to conclude all courses for credit with a grade based on either an exam or written paper.

Research track

The MA research track consists of 37 credits. Students accepted to this track are exempt from writing a seminar paper but need to enroll for the 'Personal Supervision' course (4 credits) in the second year of their studies. Note that writing the thesis itself does not count towards credits but the thesis grade comprises 35% of the final MA graduating score.

List of Courses

CORE COURSES (15 credits)

01502 GIS and Urban Informatics

Mr. Guy Keren

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) are at the core of all smart cities - that's what makes them smart. From collecting data through analyzing to presenting (smart) cities data, GIS is a principal component of all smart operations. In this introductory course, we will gain practical experience working with GIS software and elementary theoretical background of geoinformatics - the necessary tools for a wide variety of tasks.

Autumn Semester	M	13:00-15:00	Social Sciences Bldg.	Lecture	3 credits
	M	15:00-15:45		Exercise	

01505 Urban Remote Sensing*

Prof. Noam Levin

The aims of this course are to familiarize the students with the world of remote sensing, and the capabilities it offers to map urban areas at various spatial and temporal scales, using satellite images. Specific topics we will cover will include mapping of impervious areas, vegetation and functional areas within cities. The students will learn some of the basics of

remote sensing, will become familiar with various datasets which are freely available, and at the end of the course will be able to conduct basic remote sensing analysis of urban areas.

Autumn semester W 14:30-16:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture & Exercise **2 credits**

01507 Urban Planning: From Modernism to Urbanism and Smart Growth*

Prof. Eran Razin

Urban planning is a major component of urban dynamics and a field for the application of smart city tools. The course aims to introduce changing conceptions of urban planning and technological, economic and political transformations that explain them. It discusses changing conceptions, from visionaries such as Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier, to present day strategies of "neoliberal" planning, smart/sustainable growth and (new) urbanism, concluding with likely future trends in light of technological breakthroughs, global warming challenges and post- COVID-19 realities.

Autumn Semester W 10:30-12:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture & Exercise
2 credits

40996 Smart Cities: Technological and Social Aspects of Urban Innovation

Prof (Arch) Rafi Rich

Most people live in urban areas today. With a strong immigration trend to cities, along with the growing population, more than 65% of humanity is expected to live in cities by 2050, setting a new set of disturbing challenges. The information revolution, accompanied by the developed technologies of recent decades, introduces a new concept: the smart city. In this course, we will define that term and discuss further aspects and implications of future cities on human social, economic, and environmental systems.

Autumn Semester W 16:30-18:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01552 Social Justice and Smart Cities

Dr Rani Mandelbaum

This seminar course aims to give students tools to investigate spatial justice practices and policies in cities, with a focus on housing, transport and public spaces. Student teams investigate good practice case studies from cities around the world and explore the potential for adaptation of these practices in Jerusalem or elsewhere. Course methods are based on readings, peer learning, class discussion and team projects.

Spring Semester M 17:00-18:30 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01516 Field Course: Transitioning to Smart City Growth: Jerusalem: between Tradition and Innovation

Dr Ronit Purian

The landscape of cities, smart cities and societies invites us to reflect, understand and plan possible collective futures. Through a series of field trips and meetings, this unique course will put the pieces together: assemble the domains and silos of municipalities and systems; figure out the role of new technologies and service applications; and develop a vision of innovation in cities.

To carry out a meaningful project, students are invited to apply methods and tools learned in other courses in the program, to practice new skills and gain real-world experience

Autumn semester M 19:00-20:30 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01551 Seminar in Smart Cities*

Prof. Daniel Felsenstein

This seminar course will provide students with the tools and methods for conducting independent research into smart cities topics. It will integrate issues of data generation, research methodology and analytic tools to equip students with the skills for researching smart cities. The course format will include both lectures, student presentations and hands on exercises. The course provides the

methodological and practical infrastructure for writing a seminar paper.

Autumn semester W 12:30-14:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Seminar **2 credits**

METHODS AND TOOLS (8 credits)

01508 Python Programing

Dr Roni Drori

This is a practical hands-on course for students with no previous programming background. We will focus on practice and the lecture will be accompanied by exercise and a weekly homework will be assigned.

Autumn Semester M 10:30-12:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01517 Urban Digital Data and Analytics

Dr Roni Drori

This course will present different ways to collect and exploit urban data. We will gather data using various sources, organize and analyze them.

Prerequisite for course 01517: Completion of course 01508 and/or prior knowledge of Python Programing

Spring Semester M 13:00-14:30 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01521 Urban Simulation*

Dr Yair Grinberger

Cities are complex dynamic systems in which individuals, households, infrastructure, and governmental institutions constantly interact. This complexity makes it hard and at times impossible to assess the outcomes of changes within the system. In such cases, simulations based on computational urban models can be used to gain insights and intuition regarding the dynamics of urban systems under various conditions. In the course "Urban Simulation", the students will gain both the theoretical knowledge required for understanding how urban simulations are developed and used and the practical know-how required for developing such simulations using Python language programming.

Spring Semester W 10:30-12:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Seminar **2 credits**

40994 Data Project: Data for Managing the Smart City*

Dr Amit Birenboim

In this project-based course students will have the opportunity to apply a suite of analytical tools (both tools acquired in other courses and new tools that will be thought and practiced in the current course) to problems dealing with the management and functioning of the city. These can deal with the delivery of municipal services, the management of city infrastructure, the efficient use of city resources and the monitoring of intra-urban mobility.

Spring Semester W 14:30-16:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

THEMATIC COURSES (10 credits)

01533 Urban Innovations and Sustainable Mobility Ecosystems

Dr Maya Ben Dror

The application of information revolution in mobility, from autonomous to on-demand travel and delivery, disrupts urban mobility, erodes governing policies, and generates rich data. This course

examines the utilization of and attitudes towards new mobility and its incorporation in urban transportation policy - increasing urban sustainability and resilience. Students of this elective will learn how skills, methods and tools gained through core courses can be applied in urban policy environments, partially through real world experiences of guest speakers from leading companies, public and non-profit organizations.

Condensed course, will be taught both in class and on-line

Spring Semester M 10:30-12:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01524 Smart Transportation Systems

Eng. Jay Kaplan

The Smart Transportation Systems course will introduce students to the main elements of smart transportation systems, focusing on planning principles, technological and systems approaches, and institutional aspects. The course will provide students with the knowledge and tools for evaluating and discussing the impact of various technologies, applications and services. Students will be presented with the evolving state of the art and with a survey of success stories in world cities. We will have the opportunity to explore tools for the use of big data and modeling in improving planning decisions. We will discuss the challenges and opportunities that smart transportation systems present for the future of urban planning.

Autumn Semester M 17:00-18:30 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

40995 Quality of Life in the Smart City*

Dr Amit Birenboim

Quality of life, health and wellbeing have become a central concern for local policy makers in recent decades. In this course, we will address these issues from both theoretical and empirical perspectives while focusing on the ways by which technology and data can promote the quality of life of urban inhabitants. Each topic that will be covered will include a theory class that will be followed by a practical exercise.

Spring Semester M 15:00-16:30 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

01558 Making Sense of the Digital City*

Prof. Justin Hollander

This course will explore the nature of the digital public spaces we occupy online, how they are shaped and what role architects and urban planners have played and could play in better designing them. Responding to today's fast movement of so much of social and work activity online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this course will interrogate the digital public spaces we are now spending most of our time in and ask if they can better serve us. Real-world cities in the U.S. and Israel have been shaped by millennia of experience and education, designed by the architecture and planning disciplines. This course asks: what might those professions add to shaping the public spaces that Americans and Israelis now live in online? Introducing students to both historical and theoretical frameworks for the topic, the course will then move to review the range of methods available for collecting and analyzing data on the Digital City, reviewing basic concepts of urban social listening, sentiment analysis, computer vision, and bot detection.

Condensed course to be given over the last month of the semester.

Spring Semester W 12:30-14:30 Social Sciences Bldg. Lecture **2 credits**

40997 Integrative Smart Cities Project

Prof (Arch). Rafi Rich

The city of the 21st century has seen a rapid evolution, from a city with stable growth to a complex built environment affected by environmental, social and economic stress, together with the effects of technology and data that have made optimization, engagement and management easier and more

dynamic. To achieve the potential brought to us by tech and data, a city needs to see data and technology as a new infrastructure level. This course will explore the components of this new infrastructure level, its uses, as well as barriers and hazards due to misuse or wrong distribution

Spring Semester W 16:30-18:00 Social Sciences Bldg. Seminar **2 credits**

Program is subject to change

*** Course in which students can write a seminar paper.**