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Socio-Economic Aspects of Urban Development

Master of Science in Management, Elective Course
Module Number 07-201-2102

Content of the Module

Cities around the world face challenges as they grow. What are the needs and demands of residents as well as business executives to keep cities thriving, and how can public policy respond? We will be analyzing cities quantitatively, looking at income differences between different part of the city, social segregation and infrastructure connections. The interplay between workers and firms will be discussed in the context of business agglomeration and structural change. With examples from cities around the world, we will examine how climate change affects urban development and how cities can respond to the challenges of the future. Combining insights from urban economics, business studies, environmental management, geography and social science, the course aims to provide a holistic picture of important socio-economic issues that cities are tackling.

Goals of the Module

Students will be able to identify socio-economic issues of urban development and to compare best practices from around the world. They will know how to calculate and interpret indicators of income inequality, social segregation, business aggregation and urban growth rates, evaluating public policy and drawing critical conclusions. They will work in small groups of three students to conduct a comparative analysis of two cities using the techniques and insights from the course. They will be able to present their findings in English and defend them argumentatively.

Module Format

Lecture “Socio-Economic Aspects of Urban Development” (2 SWS) = 30 hours of class attendance and 120 hours of independent study= 150 hours

Seminar with practical part “Socio-Economic Aspects of Urban Development” (2 SWS) = 30 hours of class attendance and 120 hours of independent study = 150 hours

Time and date: Monday, 9:15-10:45, Seminarraum 8 - I132 I1.001

Monday, 11:15-12:45, Seminarraum 8 - I132 I1.001

Grade

Students work together in small groups (3 students) to conduct their comparative analysis of the socioeconomic challenges two big cities face and how they deal with them. The grade for the module is made up of a presentation (30%) and a 15-page written paper (70%).

- The **presentations** take place on 12, 19, 26 January and 2 February 2026.
- Deadline for submitting the 15-page **seminar paper** of each group as a PDF by email to melanie.krause@uni-leipzig.de: **28.02.2026** (23:59)

Literature

No textbook covers the material of the whole module. There are various textbooks on urban economics, business agglomeration, and socio-economic segregation which will be made reference to in the individual units.

Module Overview

- City Size and City Growth
- An Urban Economic Model of Rental Prices, Apartment Size, and Population Density
- Urban Data and Empirical Methods (e.g. Geographical Information Systems)
- Building Structure and Home Ownership
- Rising Rent in Cities? Hedonic Price Models and Rent Control
- Rich and Poor in Cities - Determinants of the Spatial Distribution
- Income Inequality, Segregation and Gentrification
- Agglomerations Economics and Firm Clusters in Cities
- Structural Change, City Specialization and Marketing
- Urban Infrastructure and Infrastructure Policy
- Environmental Policy in Cities and Urban Green Space
- How Climate Change affects Cities and how Cities Adapt to Climate Change

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