

COURSE: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH_ "Landscape & the Sustainable Development Oxymoron"

- Code Aalto University: MAR-E1006
- Duration: January-May 2019 (III, IV and V periods), 8.1.2019-21.5.2019, Tuesdays 13.15-17.00 (classroom 233a, Learning Center Otaniemi)
- CREDITS: 3-6 credits
- Responsible teacher: Juanjo Galan (Aalto University):
- Level of the Course: Master's degree level, suitable also for doctoral students.

INTRODUCTION:

The course will facilitate a personal and collective investigation about the Sustainable Development concept; the multiple, complementary and sometimes contradictory approaches to it; and very specially, the way in which Sustainable Development can inform planning and design processes in landscape architecture, regional and urban planning, architecture and design.

The course will be structured in two phases. The first one will include a multifaceted study of the Sustainable Development concept through a set of lectures, discussions and reading seminars that will finalize in each session with the collective definition of key Questions and potential Answers (Synthesis, Inquiry & Hypothesis).

The second part of the course will include the preparation of an individual work in the intersection between the Sustainable Development concept (ontology, specific approaches, assessment methods, etc.) and a specific topic chosen by each student. This final work might be used to advance in the theoretical part of a Master Thesis (master students), to activate the preparation of a Research Plan (applicants for a Doctoral Position) or to initiate the preparation of a Conference paper or Research Article (doctoral students). This second part will include specific activities and mid-critiques to advance in the development of the main components of a research document (literature review, research questions, methods, analysis of results, discussion, etc.).

WORKLOAD (1 credit = 27 hours): 81-162 hours.

- 1st part of the course (3 credits) = 81 hours (40% tutored (32 hours), 60 % independent (49 hours)).
- 2st part of the course (3 credits) = 81 hours (25% tutored (20 hours), 75 % independent (61 hours))

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES: During the course, students develop their skills to carry out landscape architecture research and participate in the scientific debate in the discipline. They can formulate consistent research questions and answer them by identifying the adequate research methodologies and by proposing a coherent research plan.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES course 2019: During this specific course, the students undertaking the PART1 will familiarize with the main ontological, methodological, practical and disciplinary challenges related to the Sustainable Development concept.

In addition, the students undertaking also the PART2 of the course will be able to develop a coherent argumentation about the connections between the Sustainable Development concept and one specific topic of their own choice and interest. This argumentation will be structured around a Research Plan, the theoretical part of a Master Thesis or a Research paper.

GENERAL CONTENT: The course includes a common part covering the basic concepts and methodologies in landscape architecture research, and an specific part in which each student researches one specific topic of his/her own interest. The work developed during the course can be used to initiate the preparation of a Master Thesis (MA students), to draft a potential paper or to refine a doctoral research plan (Doctoral candidates).

SPECIFIC CONTENT: The course covers the specific contents:

1) Sustainable Development: the concept

- The Sustainable Development concept, the apparent Oxymoron and the main families of approaches
- Social approaches and activism in Sustainable Development
- Assessing Sustainable Development
- System thinking and Models of the future
- Economics and Policies for Sustainable Development
- Landscape and Sustainable Development
- Designing Sustainability Transitions
- Ecology and quantitative methods in ecological studies (including data analysis)
- **ASSIGNMENTS PART1:**
 - Reading Seminar 1
 - Learning Diary
 - Final Essay + Seminar 2

2) Researching connections between Sustainable Development and Landscape, Architecture and Design

- Structure of a research plan/article + literature review
- Research Methods
- Research writing + publishing
- **ASSIGNMENTS PART 2: Intermediate and Final Documents for the production of a Doctoral Research Plan, the theoretical part of a Master Thesis or a Research paper.**
 - Rationale & Literature review
 - Research Questions, Methods & Results
 - Discussion
 - Final Document

MAIN TARGET GROUPS:

- Master & PhD Students_Landscape Architecture (Aalto University)
- Master & PhD Students_Architecture (Aalto University)
- Master & PhD Students_Aalto Creative University
- Master & PhD Students_Aalto_UH Urban Studies & Planning

ASSESSMENT:

Grading Scale: 0-5

The final works will be assessed by the responsible teachers with the possible help of external experts. In order to pass the course, **all the assignments and contributions to the reading seminars will have to be presented and passed.**

- Formative assessment: mid-reviews and open discussions with peers and teacher
- Summative review: Mainly in the final review
- Final assessment: by teacher with the possible collaboration of invited experts. The assessment will be based on the level of achievement of the intended learning outcomes, the level of understanding of the course contents and the capacity to generate consistent, innovative and well-presented proposals. In addition, the critical, effective and constructive participation in the discussions of the course will be positively valued.
- Emphasis on the final grade: The assessment considers the process during the course and the final review is mainly connected to the capacity to communicate and to incorporate the feedback received during the mid-reviews and discussions.

- The assignments will have the following weight in the final grade:
 - ASSIGNMENTS PART1:
 - Reading Seminar 1 (pass or fail)
 - Learning Diary (40% of final grade in part 1)
 - Final Essay (60% of final grade in part 1)
 - ASSIGNMENTS PART 2: Intermediate and Final Documents for the production of a Doctoral Research Plan, the theoretical part of a Master Thesis or a Research paper.
 - Assignment 1: Research Topic, Initial Research Questions and list for the Literature Review (0% of final grade in part 2)
 - Assignment 2: Rationale & Literature review (10% of final grade in part 2)
 - Assignment 3: Research Questions, Methods & Potential Results (10% of final grade in part 2)
 - Assignment 4: Results & Discussion (10% of final grade in part 2)
 - FINAL Assignment: Final Research Output (70% of final grade in part 2)
 - NOTE1: The assessment will be based in the consistent use of the concepts introduced in each assignment and in the generation of complete, innovative and well-presented solutions for the proposed tasks. The assessment of the final assignment will also consider the academic quality of the final deliverables (narrative, conceptual, graphic). The final grade will also consider the evolution of the student during the whole course; her/his level of involvement and his/her capacity to generate relevant discussions and to provide constructive feedback to peers.
 - NOTE2: Students will be guided by tutors and peers during the tutoring sessions and mid-reviews to improve their performance in each assignment. Due to the continuous character of the course, students will be able to improve their works in the following assignments and in the final one.
- The delay of submitted course work (assignments, etc.) affects its assessment:
 - If the work is delayed but submitted by the FIRST official submission date of the Department (1. jälkipalautuspäivä), the grade is lowered with one point (i.e. 3 becomes 2),
 - If the work is delayed but submitted by the SECOND official submission date of the Department (2. jälkipalautuspäivä), the grade is lowered with two points. (i.e. 3 becomes 1)
 - In the end of the course the instructor may also accept unsubmitted work which is almost accomplished, but the unfinishedness of the work is taken into consideration in the grading and the Students undertaking the theoretical/seminar course should attend all the lectures, all the reviews, participate in the reading seminars and prepare a final report (10-15 pages) of the course summarizing the work prepared by the students attending the full course (assignments 1, 2, 3, 4 and final) and proposing possible improvements in the produced works.

REGISTRATION FOR COURSES:

WebOodi. For the registration period see WebOodi

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English.

SCHEDULE (Tentative, this schedule can be changed during the course following the availability of lecturers, the requirements of students and the

PART1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE CONCEPT

SESSION 8.1.2019: Opening and Introduction to the course (Galan)

- Presentation of the course
- Personal backgrounds + Interests

SESSION 15.1.2019: Ontological approaches to the Sustainable Development Concept (Galan)

- 13:15- 14:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Juanjo Galan): *"The Sustainable Development concept, approaches to the apparent oxymoron"*
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Juanjo Galan): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 1: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- SEMINAR_1 (reading seminar): Sustainable Development: the Concept. Choose one text, movie, documentary, building, design, etc. dealing with the Sustainable Development concept and connected to your own field of studies (landscape architecture, architecture, planning, design, etc.) and present a summary in a Powerpoint (5 minutes)
- Group Discussion: Research Questions and Potential Answers and Research Methods (joint Synthesis, Inquiry and Hypothesis)
- JUANJO GALAN: <https://people.aalto.fi/juanjo.galan>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 22.1.2019: Landscape and Sustainable Development (Bell/Galan)

- 13:15-14:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Simon Bell): *"What do we mean by a sustainable landscape?"*
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Simon Bell): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- 15:15-16:00 Lecture 2 (lecturer: Juanjo Galan): *"Ecological concepts in Urban Landscape Architecture"*
- 16:00-17:00 Debate (facilitator: Juanjo Galan): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- SIMON BELL: <https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/profile/dr-simon-bell>
- JUANJO GALAN: <https://people.aalto.fi/juanjo.galan>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 29.1.2019: Social approaches to Sustainable Development (Berglund, Garduño)

NOTE: This session might be switched with the one scheduled on February the 19th if that fits the agenda of all the involved lecturers

- 13:15-14:00 Lecture 2 (lecturer: Claudia Garduño): *"Development as Freedom in El 20"*.
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Claudia Garduño): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- 15:15- 16:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Eeva Berglund): *"Grassroots Urbanism and Environmental Social Movements"*
- 16:00-17:00 Debate (facilitator: Eeva Berglund): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 1: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- EEVA BERGLUND: <https://people.aalto.fi/eeva.berglund>
- CLAUDIA GARDUÑO: <https://research.aalto.fi/portal/claudia.gardunogarcia.html>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 5.2.2019: System Thinking and Speculative Landscape Urbanism (Kotnik, Fricker)

- 13:15- 16:00 Reading seminar + Discussion: *"System thinking and Speculative Landscape Urbanism"*
- TONI KOTNIK: <https://people.aalto.fi/toni.kotnik#cv>
- PIA FRICKER: <https://people.aalto.fi/pia.fricker>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 12.2.2019: Assessing Sustainable Development (Kuittinen, Candy)

- 13:15- 14:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Matti Kuittinen): **"Carbon footprints and handprints as indicators for design"**
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Matti Kuittinen): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 1: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- 15:15-16:00 Lecture 2 (lecturer: Seona Candy): **"Assessing Sustainable Development of Urban Systems: examples from the Footprint Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip Eco Footprint Project"**
- 16:00-17:00 Debate (facilitator: Seona Candy): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- MATTI KUITTINEN: <https://people.aalto.fi/matti.kuittinen>
- SEONA CANDY: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-institute-of-sustainability-science/people/helsus-visitors>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 19.2.2019: Ecological approaches to Sustainable Development (Raymond, Kotze)

NOTE: This session might be switched with the one scheduled on January the 29th if that fits the agenda of all the involved lecturers

- 13:15- 14:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Christopher Raymond): **"Nexus between urban green infrastructure, sustainable development and the digital age"**
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Christopher Raymond): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 1: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- 15:15-16:00 Lecture 2 (lecturer: Johan Kotze): **"Study questions and data analysis in urban ecological studies: The links between quantitative ecological research in the city and sustainable development"**
- 16:00-17:00 Debate (facilitator: Johan Kotze): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- CRISTOPHER RAYMOND: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-institute-of-sustainability-science/people/helsus-professors>
- JOHAN KOTZE: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/programmes/master/urban-studies-planning/johan-kotze>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 26.2.2019: Economics and Policies for Sustainable Development (Galan, Nagatsu)

- 13:15- 14:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Juanjo Galan): **"Towards Sustainable Urban Metabolisms?"**
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Juanjo Galan): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 1: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- 15:15-16:00 Lecture 2 (lecturer: Milutin Stojanovic / Michiru Nagatsu): **"Ecological vs. Environmental Economics"**
- 16:00-17:00 Debate (facilitator: Milutin Stojanovic / Michiru Nagatsu): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- JUANJO GALAN: <https://people.aalto.fi/juanjo.galan>
- MICHIRU NAGATSU: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-institute-of-sustainability-science/people/helsus-professors>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 5.3.2019: Designing Sustainable Transitions (Jalas, Lahteenoja)

- 13:15- 14:00 Lecture 1 (lecturer: Mikko Jalas): **"Form-giving and back-casting: how to support alternative futures"**
- 14:00-15:00 Debate (facilitator: Mikko Jalas): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 1: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- 15:00- 15:15 Break
- 15:15-16:00 Lecture 2 (lecturer: Satu Lahteenoja): **"The evaluation of sustainable development policy in Finland - methods and findings"**
- 16:00-17:00 Debate (facilitator: Satu Lahteenoja): teamwork (defining Research Questions and exploring potential solutions for the topic presented in lecture 2: synthesis, inquiry and hypothesis)
- MIKKO JALAS: <https://people.aalto.fi/mikko.jalas>
- SATU LAHTENOJA: <https://www.demoshelsinki.fi/en/ihtiset/satu-lahteenoja>
- Next steps: Learning Diary (Include references and citations from the key authors presented in the reading(s) or in the lecture(s). List the references in a final Bibliography and keep an excel or list of your favorite references for future use) + Reading(s) for the next session

SESSION 12.3.2019: Wrap up (Galan, Milutin Stojanovic, Ernesto Hartikainen)

- SEMINAR_2 (Wrap-up PART1): Summary of the Final Essays of the part 1 (10 minutes per student + 10 minutes for peer feedback)
 - Group Discussion: Final Wrap-up of the part1 of the course
 - The deliverables for the Wrap-up of the PARTY1 should include:
 - 1) FINAL ESSAY of the PHASE 1 (lecture series). This essay should be an overall reflection of the "lecture series" and, optionally, of their connections with your own field of studies or interest. You can use your learning diary but remember that the Essay should be more synthetic, propositive and explorative since it should explain how you want to deal with the "Sustainability Development" concept in general, and optionally, within your own field of practice or research.... (self-made theories and ideas will be a plus!!). 5-10 pages (diagrams and schemes are welcome!, References and citations from the key authors studied in the course should be included in the text and listed in the Bibliography)
 - 2) A POWERPOINT with a summary of your final essay (please consider that you will have 10 minutes for your presentation)
 - MILUTIN STOJANOVIC: [https://tuhat.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/milutin-stojanovic\(6fcf0428-24ff-46d2-bd6b-d9fafdf55fb6\).html](https://tuhat.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/milutin-stojanovic(6fcf0428-24ff-46d2-bd6b-d9fafdf55fb6).html)
 - ERNESTO HARTIKAINEN: <https://www.sitra.fi/en/people/ernesto-hartikainen/>
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PART2: RESEARCHING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPE, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

SESSION 12.3.2019 (1-2 hours)

- Lecture (by Juanjo Galan): Approaches to Research: Typical Structures of a Research Plan/ Research Output + Topic, Rationale, Research Questions and Background Information (literature review) (30 minutes)
- REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT_1: Research topic, objectives, initial research questions, list of basic readings for Literature review (5 minutes per student). (NOTE: include DIAGRAMS, FLOW CHARTS, etc.)
- Next steps: [Advance in the Assignment 2 \(literature review\)](#)

SESSION 19.3.2019

- Free tutoring

SESSION 26.3.2019 (4 hours)

- REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT_2: Main findings from the literature review and with new Research Questions. (NOTE: include DIAGRAMS, FLOW CHARTS, etc. Try to combine all the literature review in a unified system)
- Group Discussion: Informing your Research with existing information: potentials and challenges
- Next steps: [Advance in the Assignment 3 \(profiling Research Questions and Exploring Methods for answering them\)](#).

SESSION 2.4.2019 (2 hours)

- Lecture (by Jordi Martinez Ventura): Research Methods in Landscape Architecture, Architecture and design (45-60 minutes)
- SEMINAR_5: Tentative Methods proposed by each student to advance in his/her research (10 minutes per student)
- Next steps: [Advance in the Assignment 3 \(profiling Research Questions and Exploring Methods for answering them\)](#).

SESSION 9.4.2019

- Free tutoring

SESSION 16.4.2019 (4 hours)

- REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT_3: Key Findings of the Literature Review, Final Research Questions, Research Methods and Potential Results (if you are working in the introductory part of your Master Thesis, the Methods and the expected Results might also refer to the practical part of your thesis). (15 minutes per student approx. + 10 minutes for peer feedback) (NOTE: include DIAGRAMS, FLOW CHARTS, etc.)
- Group Discussion: Research Methods and production of results: Challenges and potential solutions
- Next steps: [Advance in the Assignment 4 \(Results and in the Discussion. NOTE: students working in a Doctoral Research Plan might concentrate in other issues such as Schedule and Publishing Plan\)](#).

SESSION 23.4.2019

- Free tutoring

SESSION 30.4.2019 (4 hours)

- REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT_4: Results and Discussion (15 minutes per student approx. + 10 minutes for peer feedback)
- Group Discussion: What makes a consistent Discussion chapter?
- Next steps: [Prepare a draft version of your Final Assignment.](#)

SESSION 7.5.2019 (2 hours)

- Lecture (by Juanjo Galan): Writing and Publishing in Research
- SEMINAR_6: Peer and expert feedback about the draft version of your Final Assignment
- Next steps: Advance towards the final assignment.

SESSION 14.5.2019

- Free tutoring

SESSION 21.5.2019 (4 hours)

- FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Submission and Presentation of your final Research Output (15 minutes per person + 15 minutes for peer feedback). The final assignment will include:
 - 1) PDF with the Final Research Output (text, research plan or paper including a coherent and improved version of the Assignments 1+2+3+4 and some final CONCLUSIONS)
 - 2) Powerpoint with a summary of the Final Research Output (15 minutes)
- Group DISCUSSION

| | JANUARY 2019 | | | | FEBRUARY 2019 | | | | MARCH 2019 | | | | APRIL 2019 | | | | | MAY 2019 | | |
|------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| PART | 8.1.19 | 15.1.19 | 22.1.19 | 29.1.19 | 5.2.19 | 12.2.19 | 19.2.19 | 26.2.19 | 5.3.19 | 12.3.19 | 19.3.19 | 26.3.19 | 2.4.19 | 9.4.19 | 16.4.19 | 23.4.19 | 30.4.19 | 7.5.19 | 14.5.19 | 21.5.19 |
| 1 | INTRO | LECTURE + SEMINAR | LECTURES + group DISCUSS | SEMINAR + group DISCUSS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | LECTURE + REVIEW ASSIGN_1 | FREE TUTORING | REVIEW ASSIGN_2 + group DISCUSS | LECTURE + SEMINAR | FREE TUTORING | REVIEW ASSIGN_3 + group DISCUSS | FREE TUTORING | REVIEW ASSIGN_4 + group DISCUSS | LECTURE + SEMINAR | FREE TUTORING | FINAL REVIEW |

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