University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Sustainable Cities, PG_00178098		
Field of study	International Business		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	English
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	5.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Maria Matusiewicz	
	Teachers	dr Maria Matusiewicz dr hab. Marcin Wołek	

Lesson types							
	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours					
	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	0.0	0.0	30

Subject objectives

1. Understanding contemporary challenges of sustainable urban development, in particular in the context of the transformation of mobility, urban logistics, spatial management and social justice.
2. Developing analytical and strategic competences enabling the design, assessment and implementation of urban sustainable development policies taking into account various stakeholders and dimensions (economic, social, environmental, technological).
3. Developing skills in assessing the impact of specific planning actions and tools (e.g. SUMP, Physical Internet, digital twin, spatial planning, principles of circular economy) on the functioning of the city.
4. Critical reflection on practical aspects of implementing urban policies, including tensions and compromises between the goals of economic development, environmental protection and social justice.
5. Integration of interdisciplinary knowledge, combining approaches from the fields of transport, logistics, spatial policy, urban economics, maritime planning and territorial development management.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[IBMU2_W05] knows and understands the fundamental dilemmas of international business related to globalisation, integration, internationalization and sustainable development	The student understands the dilemmas related to globalization, integration and internationalization and their impact on the development of cities in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBMU2_W08] knows selected areas of the functioning of a modern enterprise in the international environment; understands the conditions, principles and consequences of decisions taken in modern enterprise's structures dealing on the international market	The student understands the impact of decisions made in the structures of international enterprises on the urban environment and the development of sustainable business practices in cities.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBMU2_W06] has knowledge of the world economy, economic ties and the regularities governing them, principles of global market functioning and international economic and financial relations as well as the process of their evolution; understands the causes, regularities and consequences of occurring changes;	The student knows and understands the impact of global economic and financial processes on the development of urban structures and their sustainable transformation.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBMU2_K05] is ready independently identify, diagnose and resolve dilemmas and alternative solutions related to international business	The student is able to independently identify urban problems and propose responsible and alternative solutions in line with the idea of sustainable development.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_K04] is ready to inspire and organise projects for the benefit of the environment and the international business community, in accordance with the idea of sustainable development	The student is able to initiate and organize urban projects focused on sustainable development, taking into account the needs of local and global communities.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_K06] is ready to observe and develop the principles of professional ethics and corporate social responsibility, takes into account changing social needs, respects the diversity of opinions and cultures	The student is ready to take into account ethics and social responsibility in activities for sustainable urban development, respecting cultural and social diversity.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_U05] can communicate in an international and culturally diverse environment, using advanced terminology of international business	The student communicates effectively in a multicultural environment, using specialist terminology in the field of sustainable urban development and urban planning.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_U07] can prepare oral presentations on economic and social issues, using specialist theoretical approaches with diverse audiences, can prepare and lead a debate	The student is able to prepare and present issues related to sustainable cities in a way that is understandable to a diverse audience, using adequate theoretical approaches.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_U01] can creatively interpret, explain and analyse complex economic phenomena and the relations occurring between them, using the acquired knowledge in international business and international economic and financial relations	The student is able to analyze complex socio-economic phenomena occurring in cities in the context of global and local challenges of sustainable development.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_K02] is ready to critically assess the level of acquired knowledge, skills and professional competence in the area of international business	The student is able to critically evaluate his/her competences in the design and implementation of sustainable urban development strategies.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[IBMU2_K01] Is ready to recognise the importance of knowledge of international business in the process of identifying and solving business problems and the need to consult experts in cases of complex issues	The student recognizes the importance of knowledge in the field of international business in solving urban problems and is able to consult activities with experts in this field.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[IBMU2_W09] knows and understands legal and cultural conditions related to international business,	The student knows and understands the legal and cultural conditions that shape sustainable development policies in cities with a diverse international context.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

1. Introduction to Sustainable Urban Development
   - The concept of sustainable cities: definitions, goals, theoretical frameworks (SDGs, New Urban Agenda)
   - Contemporary urban challenges (climate, mobility, demography, inequalities)
2. Sustainable urban mobility
   - Urban mobility planning (SUMP)
   - Analysis of user behavior and needs of different social groups
   - Sustainable public transport: integration, efficiency, electrification, digital twin
3. Sustainable urban logistics
   - Stakeholders and cooperation models in the urban supply chain
   - Sustainable Urban Logistics Plans (SULP)
   - Last mile logistics and Physical Internet (PI)
   - Consolidation centers and logistics support infrastructure
4. Spatial planning and urban development
   - Spatial conditions of transport and logistics
   - Metropolitan development and management of spatial conflicts
   - Infrastructure as a tool development and spatial integration
5. Urban policies and urban management
   - Local urban policies towards climate challenges (including logistics and mobility)
   - Evaluation and monitoring of public policies (including logistics and mobility)
   - Integrated management: cross-sectoral approach to urban policy
6. Spatial justice and participation
   - Social justice in access to space and services
   - Social participation in urban planning and management
   - Transferring experiences from maritime planning to the urban context (e.g. participatory spatial management)
7. Technologies and innovations in urban management
   - Technologies in transport and logistics: in-motion charging, ITS systems, digital twin
   - The role of data and digitalization in planning and operationalizing urban policies
   - Smart city vs. sustainable city: integration of technologies with environmental and social goals

Deepening knowledge and solving problems in the interpretation of issues discussed during classes will be undertaken during consultations.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
exam (closed and open questions)	51.0%	50.0%
activity and own/group work on a project	51.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	City Logistics and Physical Internet • Matusiewicz, M. (2024). *Framework for Physical Internet deployment in cities*. Urban, Planning and Transport Research, 12. https://doi.org/10.1080/21650020.2024.2303341 • Matusiewicz, M. (2020). *Logistics of the future Physical Internet and its practicality*. Transportation Journal, 59(2). https://doi.org/10.5325/transportationj.59.2.0200 Sustainable mobility and urban planning • Wołek, M., Jagiełło, A., & Szmelter-Jarosz, A. (2024). *Draft framework for Monitoring and evaluation for sustainable urban mobility: deliverable 1.1 of SUMPs for BSR project*. https://interreg-baltic.eu/... • Matusiewicz, M., & Wierzbowska-Kujda, M. (2023). *Jak opracować dobry plan zrównoważonej mobilności miejskiej?* https://www.teraz-srodowisko.pl/... Practice and barriers to implementing sustainable solutions • Matusiewicz, M. (2024). *Shared logistics a clash with reality: results of a survey...* Transportation Research Procedia, 79. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trpro.2024.03.010 • Wołek, M., Jagiełło, A., & Wolański, M. (2021). *Multi-criteria analysis in the decision-making process on the electrification of public transport...* Energies, 14(19). https://doi.org/10.3390/en14196391 In the field of spatial planning and territorial development (for the metropolitan context) • Kempa, J. (2018). *Strategic conditions for the development of Tri-city: Conflicts and cooperation in the context of the metropolitan act . Współczesna Gospodarka*, 9(3). https://doi.org/10.26881/wg.2018.3.05 • Zaucha, J. (2024). *Public policies for territorial cohesion* (recenzja książki). *Regional Studies*, 58. https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2023.2273114

	Supplementary literature	Additional case studies and practical aspects • Matusiewicz, M., & Rolbiecki, R. (2021). *The tendency of city stakeholders to implement sustainable logistics measures...* Zeszyty Naukowe / Akademia Morska W Szczecinie. https://doi.org/10.17402/470 • Wołek, M., Wolański, M., Bartłomiejczyk, M., et al. (2021). *Ensuring sustainable development of urban public transport: the case of Gdynia and Sopot*. Journal of Cleaner Production, 279. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.123807 Urban planning theory and strategy • Matusiewicz, M. (2022). *Logistyka miejska w świetle idei zrównoważonego rozwoju*. Wyd. UG. • Wołek, M., Gromadzki, M., & Jagiełło, A. (2021). *Dzielnicowe, miejskie i metropolitalne plany zrównoważonej mobilności...* Wyd. UG. Social and territorial aspects • Kempa, J. (2018). *Strategic conditions for the development of Tri-city...* Współczesna Gospodarka, 9(3). https://doi.org/10.26881/wg.2018.3.05 • Zaucha, J. et al. (2025). *Exploring social justice in marine spatial planning...* Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 68(5). https://doi.org/10.1080/09640568.2023.2279512 Popularizing publications and expert commentaries • Matusiewicz, M., & Wierzbowska-Kujda, M. (2023). *Usprawnienie logistyki w miastach powinno obchodzić wszystkich*. https://www.teraz-srodowisko.pl/...
	eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Introduction to City Logistics Definitions and Scope of City Logistics The Role of Logistics in City Functioning City Logistics Challenges in the Age of Urbanization and E-Commerce Sustainable Development and Urban Mobility What is Sustainable Mobility? The role of public transport, bicycles, micromobility Emissions, noise and quality of life in cities Planning and implementation of mobility plans SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) methodology and stages The role of stakeholders in planning (authorities, residents, companies) Monitoring and evaluation of activities Innovations in urban logistics Physical Internet, city hubs, consolidation of deliveries Shared logistics theory and practice New models of last mile deliveries (e.g. cargo bike, drones, robots) Traffic and space management in the city Parking policy, delivery zones, quiet logistics Multifunctional streets and shared space ITS and Smart City solutions in freight traffic management The impact of territorial development on logistics and mobility City sprawl and suburbanization The role of spatial planning in shaping mobility Metropolitan cooperation and integrated planning Implementation cases and good practices (case studies) Gdynia and SULP: case study Amsterdam, Barcelona, Stockholm models of sustainable mobility EU projects (e.g. CIVITAS, SUMPs for BSR) Public policies and financing EU funds for sustainable transport Strategic documents: Green Deal, Fit for 55, KPO National laws and local transport plans
Work placement	Not applicable

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.