

CDE3505 Planning and Governing Cities

AY2025/26 Semester 1

Introduction

Planning and Governing Cities serves to provide students with the foundation that allows for the three liveability outcomes – competitive economy, sustainable environment, and high quality of life – to be achieved. The course introduces students to how Singapore engages with urban challenges, addressing the *Integrated Master Planning & Development* methodology and *Dynamic Urban Governance* systems within the Liveability Framework.

The issues that cities face is constantly evolving and the way in which we address them must evolve alongside them. Singapore's planning framework was developed in a context that differs from that of today, where we now face novel, complex issues such as ageing population, climate change, and environmental sustainability. How will we modify our approach in planning to address these issues?

Through this course, students will first be introduced to the current planning system, at strategic, local, and operational levels. Students will also understand how issues are typically addressed with a quantitative and policy framework. Students will then explore the linkages of city planning, urban governance, and public policy implementation, to create collaborations between stakeholders to address the gaps within our planning system and policy implementation. Such an understanding is crucial not only for current and future practitioners in city planning but also professionals in various built environment industries such as real estate, architecture and engineering consultancies, building and construction, project development and management as well as urban policy formulation and implementation.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the principles, practices, and challenges central to the planning and development of a liveable city.
- Investigate macro planning issues and urban systems at a city level scale.
- Understand the process of planning and governance from multiple points of view, from governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, civic society, and the general public.
- Demonstrate an ability to gather data and publicly available evidence and analyse them with different models for planning and policy implementation.
- Design policy and technical solutions underpinned by the urban systems approach.
- Formulate and evaluate solutions through a good understanding of the principles of a liveable city, key success factors in policy implementation and the importance of public participation in urban governance.

Course Leaders

Dr. John Keung, Adjunct Practice Professor, NUS Cities, NUS; Independent board director and advisor of various private companies and public agencies in Singapore and Hong Kong; Former CEO of Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and Dean of BCA Academy (jkeung01@nus.edu.sg)

Assoc. Prof. Koon Wee, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, College of Design and Engineering (koon.wee@nus.edu.sg)

Teaching Assistant

Ms. Zan Chenyu, Senior Associate (Research Assistant), NUS Cities (zan_cy@nus.edu.sg)

Course Schedule

Lecture Venue: E5-03-20 | **Studio Venue:** E4-04-02 and E4-04-03

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm, every Monday

WEEK DATE	DESCRIPTION
WEEK 1 11 AUGUST 2025	Lecture 1 Introduction; Physical Planning and Urban Governance Framework <u>Project Discussion</u>
WEEK 2 18 AUGUST 2025	Lecture 2 and Panel Discussion with Guest Lecturer Urban Planning, Data Analytics and Policy Framework
WEEK 3 25 AUGUST 2025	Lecture 3 and Panel Discussion with Guest Lecturer Community Resilience: Singapore's Governance System and Community Participation
WEEK 4 1 SEPTEMBER 2025	Lecture 4 Long-term Strategic Planning <u>Project Discussion</u>
WEEK 5 8 SEPTEMBER 2025	Field Trip to Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)
WEEK 6 15 SEPTEMBER 2025	Lecture 5 and Panel Discussion with Guest Lecturer Urban Planning, Sustainable Development and Complexity Science <u>Informal consultation with teaching team</u>
WEEK 7 29 SEPTEMBER 2025	Presentation Studio 1 (Moot Consultancy Project)
WEEK 8 6 OCTOBER 2025	Lecture 6 Local Planning in Action: The Planning Process, Public Participation and Urban Governance <u>Informal consultation with teaching team</u>
WEEK 9 13 OCTOBER 2025	Lecture 7 Local Planning in Action: Critical Case Studies <u>Informal consultation with teaching team</u>

WEEK 10 20 OCTOBER 2025	Presentation Studio 2 (Moot Consultancy Project)
WEEK 11 27 OCTOBER 2025	Lecture 8 Rule of Law: Urban Governance and Policy Implementation <u>Informal consultation with teaching team</u>
WEEK 12 3 NOVEMBER 2025	Town Hall Project Presentation with Guest Reviewer
WEEK 13 10 NOVEMBER 2025	Town Hall Project Presentation with Guest Reviewer

Assessment Components

Students will be continuously assessed in this course through the following assessment components:

Assessment Component	Assessment Description	Weightage
Attendance, Class Participation and Peer Review	○ Compulsory attendance for all seminars and studios. ○ Class participation during seminars and studios. ○ Peer review.	15%
Individual Final Essay	○ Critical reflection on the assigned moot consultancy topic	25%
Moot Consultancy Project	Individual ○ Two presentation studios equally weighted – 2.5% each ○ Townhall performance (Consultant Role) – 10% ○ Townhall performance (Stakeholder) – 5%	20%
	Team ○ Two presentation studios equally weighted – 10% each ○ Consultancy group report – 5% ○ Group Town Hall – 15%	40%