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SYLLABUS

Informality in urban Ethiopia: Quality of life

This course focuses on conceptualizing and understanding informal settlements in the context of a third world country i.e. Ethiopia. It consists of sections on defining informality; measuring informality; identifying its typologies; revising policy frameworks and interventions. It specifically aims to familiarize students on how urban areas adjust to changing landscape and meet the basic needs of the growing numbers of informal settlers to decent living.

Course objectives & structure

This course has the following objectives:

1. Identify the main features of informality and its types;
2. Define the concept of informality;
3. Compare the approaches to the study and measurement of informality;
4. Discuss the origin and development of informality;
5. Situate informality in Ethiopia in international perspective; and,
6. Assess variations among different residential patterns – formal and informal – in terms of quality of life and key social indicators.

Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. *Understand, differentiate and explain informal from formal settlements;*
2. *Describe and analyze the origin and development of informality in various historical and cultural contexts;*
3. *Design and conduct policy-relevant and comparative studies on the impact of informality on settlers' access to urban infrastructure, facilities and services;*

4. *Become equipped with various research approaches to the study of quality of life in different urban settlement patterns;*
5. *Explain similarities and differences between urban informality in various landscapes.*

Student Workload

A learner has to complete a total of 100 hours of coursework and project to acquire the learning outcomes identified above i.e. 4 ECTS. The University of Gondar calculates academic workload for learners as credit hours that are measured in terms of contact hours divided amongst lectures, laboratory/practical works and independent study. Usually, one-third of the contact hours are for lectures while – depending on the nature of the course – laboratory/practical works and independent study share the remaining hours.

Course Structure

This course runs twice annually and students will have the full semester to complete the requirements of the course. Online or face-to-face lectures can be adopted to deliver the course and engage students/learners – depending on the current Covid-19 situation.

Prerequisites: A student who has completed first year in any undergraduate program and with good academic standing is eligible to enroll for this course

Assignments:

Before the completion of the course, students are expected to fulfill the following assignments/requirements:

- Attend and actively participate in online or lecture-based course delivery schedules that will be followed by tests at the end of each section (16 hours);
- Cover recommended readings for the course to be reported back to the course owner as papers (32 hours);
- Conduct a literature scoping review on conceptual/methodological works that will be compiled in papers (20 hours);
- Plan, implement and report a fieldwork-based project in an informal settlement (32 hours);
- Write a final and formative assessment on the course

Grading

Stages, details and weights	
Stages and details	Evaluation weights (%)
Continuous assessment (50%)	
• Tests	20%
• Papers based on recommended readings	15%
• Scoping literature review of conceptual and methodological issues	15%

Midterm assessment (subtotal 30%)	
• Develop and finalize draft research proposal	15%
• Conduct research and submit report	15%
Final assessment (20%)	
• Write final and formative assessment	20%
Total	100%

Course evaluation

This course will be evaluated by students/learners and peers after completion – annually.

Course content details:

Session 1: Defining/conceptualizing informality – 2 lecture hours

Recommended readings:

- Cottam, R. H. and A. R. Mangus. 1942. "A proposed definition of standard of living." *Social Forces* 21(2): 177-179
- UN-Habitat. 2016. *Fundamentals of Urbanization. Evidence Base for Policy Making*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat.
- UN-Habitat. 2003. *Slums of the World: The face of urban poverty in the new millennium*.
- Habitat. 2003. *Improving the Lives of 100 Million Slum Dwellers – Guide to Monitoring Target 11*

Session 2: Approaches to the study of informality: perspectives and methods – 3 lecture hours

Recommended readings:

- Foo, T.S. 2000. "Subjective assessment of urban quality of life in Singapore (1997–1998)." *Habitat International* 24(1): 31–49
- Abbott, John. 2002. *Analysis of informal settlement upgrading and critique of existing methodological approaches*.
- Wakhungu et al. 2010. *Approaches to informal urban settlement in Africa: experiences from Kigali and Nairobi*.

Session 3: Urbanization and urban development in Ethiopia – 3 lecture hours

Recommended readings:

- Hauser, Philip. *Urbanization: An overview*

- Fox, S. 2012. "Urbanization as a global historical process: theory and evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa." *Population and Development Review* 38(2): 285-310
- Flanagan, G. William. 2010. *Urban Sociology: Images and Structure*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Mumford, Lewis. 1837. "What is a city" *Architectural Record*. pp 93-96
- Parker, Simon. 2004. *Urban Theory and the Urban Experience: Encountering the City*. London: Routledge
- Thorns, C. David. 2002. *The Transformation of Cities: Urban Theory and Urban Life*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan
- Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a way of life" *The American Journal of Sociology* 44(1):1-24.
- [Charles Teller · Assefa Hailemariam] *The Demographic Transition and Development in Africa The Unique Case of Ethiopia*
- [Mark Abrahamson] *Global Cities*
- Cohen, B. 2004. "Urban growth in developing countries: a review current trends and a caution regarding existing forecasts." *World Development* 32(1): 23-51.

Session 4: Inclusion in urban development in Ethiopia – 2 lecture hours

Recommended readings:

- Butera, F., P. Caputo, R.S. Adhikari and A. Facchini. 2016. "Urban Development and Energy Access in Informal Settlements. A Review for Latin America and Africa." *Procedia Engineering* 161: 2093-2099.
- Adams, A.M., R. Islam and T. Ahmed. 2015. "Who serves the urban poor? A geospatial and descriptive analysis of health services in slum settlements in Dhaka, Bangladesh," *Health Policy and Planning* 30: i32–i45
- Ministry of urban development and construction. 2003. *Urban housing strategy in Ethiopia*.

Session 5: Informality in Ethiopia: Policy and institutional frameworks – 3 lecture hours

Recommended readings:

- Ministry of urban development and construction. 2003. *Urban housing strategy in Ethiopia*.
- Engida E.D. 2013. "Urban planning and land management challenges in emerging towns of Ethiopia: The case of Arba Minch." *Journal of Urban and Environmental Engineering* 7(2):340-348.
- Minwuyelet, M. 2005. *City expansion, squatter settlements and policy implications in Addis Ababa: The case of Kolfe Keranio sub-city*. Working papers on population and land. Trondheim: NTNU and Addis Ababa University.
- Misgana, S.A., Kiros T.D. and Dessalegn O.G. 2019. "Exploiting temporal-spatial patterns of informal settlements using GIS and remote sensing technique: a case study of Jimma city, Southwestern Ethiopia." *Environmental Systems Research* 8(6)

Session 6: Quality of life in urban centers: informal versus formal – 3 lecture hours

- Ferriss, L.A. "The quality of life concept in sociology." *The American Sociologist* 35(3): 37-51.
- Berhe, R., J. Martinez, and J. Verplanke. 2014. "Adaptation and dissonance in quality of life: a case study in Mekelle, Ethiopia." *Social Indicators Research* 118: 535-554.
- Corburn, J. and A. Sverdlik. 2019. "Informal Settlements and Human Health" pp 155-171. In: M. Nieuwenhuijsen and H. Khreis (eds.) *Integrating Human Health into Urban and Transport Planning*. Springer, Cham
- Das, D. 2008. "Urban quality of life: A case study of Guwahati." *Social Indicators Research* 88: 297–310.
- Elsa S. Tesfazghi, J. A. Martinez and J. J. Verplanke. 2010. "Variability of Quality of Life at Small Scales: Addis Ababa, Kirkos Sub-City." *Social Indicators Research* 98:73–88.