URBAN RESILIENCE IN GERMANY’S RHINE-RUHR METROPOLITAN REGION

GEOG 497

SUMMER 2017

INSTRUCTOR: MEG HOLDEN
QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE RHINE-RUHR REGION

◊ Germany’s most urbanized region
◊ Once heavily industrialized, now being re-born as a green urban hub
◊ Site of the 2017 European Green Capital (Essen)
◊ Home of the ICLEI-Europe Resilient Cities organization (Bonn)
◊ Home of the climate think tank Wuppertal Institute (Wuppertal)
◊ Home of numerous German research universities (TU-Dortmund, University of Cologne)
EGCA: Thematic Areas of Evaluation

1. Climate Change
2. Public Transport
3. Green Spaces
4. Nature and Biodiversity
5. Air Quality
6. Quality of Acoustic Environment
7. Waste Management
8. Water Management
9. Wastewater Management
10. Eco-Innovation and Sustainable Development
11. Energy Efficiency
12. Integrated Environmental Systems

Source: Stadt Essen
District and Neighbourhood Instruments

- Energy Utilisation Plan (in development)
- "Open Spaces Creates city Space" Master Plan (2007)
- Integrated Energy and Climate Protection Concept (2009)

Source: Stadt Essen
District and Neighbourhood Initiatives

- Energy Efficiency oriented consulting and services:
  - RWE aerial thermography Essen (2013)
  - ENVI-Met

- Retrofits & Passive Housing Standardization:
  - “House of Learning” in Essen-Haarzopf

- Connective Brownfield Redevelopment & Renaturation:
  - Krupp Park
  - Century project "Conversion of the Emscher system" (since early 1990s)
  - Altendorf Quarter & Niederfeld Lake

Source: Stadt Essen
Niederfeld Lake & Krupp Park

Source: Stadt Essen
COURSE BASICS

✧ 5 credits in upper-division Geography
✧ 2 preparatory sessions at SFU Vancouver + June 18-July 2 inclusive in Germany
✧ Online preparatory chat sessions with German-Canadian “learning pods”
✧ You will be guided and evaluated by instructor Meg Holden, a TA, and we will meet and interact with German faculty, professional, and student colleagues
PREREQUISITES: WHAT DO I NEED?

- Upper division standing (but preferably not your final semester – see me)
- Academic background in human/urban geography/sociology, human-environment nexus
- Cultural openness, self-responsibility, willingness to communicate, problem-solving skills
- Ability to travel overseas and work as a class team for 2 weeks
- German language skills not required but must be willing to try some out
WHAT WILL I LEARN?

luent and explore the layers of environment-economy-social interactions and dimensions in the particular city spaces of the Rhine-Ruhr region, in planning scenarios, and in historical context in these places;

To demonstrate an understanding of key issues of contemporary urban environmental planning and policy in the Rhine-Ruhr region, including urban resilience and related topics of green industrial restructuring, green economy, food policy, environmental justice and ecological gentrification; and to understand and refer to specific case study examples of practices in each area;

To develop a comparative understanding of cultures, policies, practices, opportunities and constraints within the context of the cities of the Rhine-Ruhr region and those of Metro Vancouver municipalities when change toward climate resilient planning and practice are concerned;

To encourage personal reflection on the different learning opportunities of learning from experts (primarily, through reading and listening); learning from experience (through visiting and sensory experience, outside of one’s regular realm of experiences); and learning from peers (particularly, through intercultural exchange “pods” created between TU-Dortmund and SFU).
WHAT WILL I PRODUCE?

◊ Maintenance of an individual field journal, including notes and diagrams of daily excursions and events, personal experiences, and reflection on site-specific questions as assigned

◊ Maintenance of a record of pod-wise reflections on intercultural learning within their established German-Canadian learning pods, online on the canvas.sfu.ca learning management software

◊ Small group activities in learning exchange pods of German and Canadian students, both virtually via the “SFU canvas” learning platform and face-to-face

◊ Creation of a “lightning talk” or Blitzlicht presentation on the theme of “A Tale of Two Regions” in which Canadian-German student pods will focus on one aspect of urban practice or theory that shines a particular light on the relevance of comparing the Rhine-Ruhr and the Metro Vancouver regions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUN JUNE 18</td>
<td>Travel day. Arrive and meet-up at hotel in Dortmund. Essential information and sharing travel stories.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON JUNE 19</td>
<td>Orientation to Dortmund and TU-Dortmund from local colleagues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES JUNE 20</td>
<td>Emscher landscape park by bicycle, Regional Association Ruhr.</td>
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<td>WED JUNE 21</td>
<td>Additional site tours: Phoenix See, InnovationCity Essen, Niderfeldsee</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR JUNE 22</td>
<td>Essen Green Capital tour, led by City of Essen, by bicycle. Stop at Margarethenhohe.</td>
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## PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE (PART 2)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRI JUNE 23</td>
<td>Student pod research day, additional site tours, preparing “lightning presentations” or “Blitzlicht”</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT JUNE 24</td>
<td>Museum Ludwig visit and historic Dortmunder Actien brewery tour.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN JUNE 25</td>
<td>Student pod exploration day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MON JUNE 26</td>
<td>TU-Dortmund Workshop day 1. Hear about German research on climate change, climate resilience, and related projects from faculty and students, with interactive sessions. Social dinner to follow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUES JUNE 27</td>
<td>TU-Dortmund Workshop day 2. Blitzlicht presentations by students, applied research panels from professionals and practitioners (Wuppertal Institute, German Advisory Council on Global Change, Leibniz Institute, others).</td>
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**PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE (PART 3)**

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<tr>
<td>WED JUNE 28</td>
<td>Bonn for ICLEI Resilient Cities meetings. Learn about the Low Carbon Cities and other international local initiatives, opportunities for young people to get involved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>THUR JUNE 29</td>
<td>Rhine River Day Cruise. Travel by boat from Mainz to Koblenz to learn about the historic Rhine River and its transformation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI JUNE 30</td>
<td>University of Cologne Workshop. Learn about green buildings and climate change research from researchers at Cologne, tour a carfree, baugruppen settlement, visit Reinauhaufen revitalized waterfront area. Social dinner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT JULY 1</td>
<td>Canada Day in Germany. We host our new friends and colleagues to some typical Canada Day celebrations! Soccer? Lacrosse? Trivial Pursuit? BBQ?</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN JULY 2</td>
<td>Travel Day. Departure from Dortmund.</td>
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FINANCIAL $TUFF

- $1500 supplementary course fee covers 14 nights shared accommodation, breakfast, some additional meals, some entry fees (museum, bike, river cruise tix)
- You are responsible for your own travel to and from Dortmund, Germany, our meeting spot (approximate return airfare $1300), local Deutschbahn train pass (cost under $500), some meals, some incidentals
- You will receive a subsidy. Minimum $300, up to 600 € more … so potentially your entire supplementary course fee comes back to you (grant application is pending, 51% likely)
HOW DO I GET IN(VOLVED)?

- Register your interest with Meg today by signing up
- We will schedule check-in interviews in early March when registration opens
- Come out and meet German colleagues when they visit for an Urban Resilience workshop March 16 & 18th (ask me or a GEOG 449 student for more details)
- For hotel reservations and to capture best prices for airfare and train passes, you will need to confirm your registration by end of April