

GRADING GUIDE – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (bachelor SGO and master HGO)

Course code and semester-year: HGO4201 (Fall 2021)

Type of examination:

Written school exam / take-home exam / term paper given topic / term paper self-chosen topic

About exams at SGO/HGO: A good examination paper contains solid knowledge, logical and coherent reasoning and a systematic structure. The answer to a discussion question/task must examine, analyze, and connect different parts of the curriculum.

1. The answer responds to the question/task given in a precise and exhaustive way.
2. The answer demonstrates knowledge.
3. The answer must be well-written: coherent and using good academic language.
4. Key concepts – those at the core of the answer – must be defined.
5. The answer demonstrates analytical capacity and reflection.

Om eksamen ved SGO/HGO: En god besvarelse inneholder solid kunnskap, logisk argumentasjon og ryddig disposisjon. Besvarelsen av en drøftingsoppgave skal være diskuterende, analytisk og koble ulike deler av pensum.

1. Besvarelsen svarer på oppgaveteksten på en presis og utfyllende måte.
2. Besvarelsen viser kunnskap.
3. Besvarelsen skal være velskrevet: sammenhengende med godt akademisk språk.
4. Viktige begreper - de som er i kjernen av besvarelsen – skal defineres.
5. Besvarelsen skal vise analytiske evne og refleksjon.

About this course: This is an advanced course in urban geographical theory. Its aim is to explore urban theory through thematic excursions in the literature and in diverse field settings. The course includes five main themes, with associated reading lists: (1) Urbanization and counter-trends; (2) Contemporary urbanism; (3) Comparative urbanism; (4) Divided cities, urban geopolitics and the challenge of social media; (5) Segregation, neighbourhood effects and spaces of encounter.

The learning outcomes are: (1) being able to account for and discuss key concepts and theories in contemporary urban social geography; (2) to explain the correlation between economic and societal development and various kinds of urban differentiation processes and patterns, (3) to explain and provide examples of how different processes take shape at different geographical levels.

The exam paper

The exam for HGO4201 consists of a term paper with a given topic. The students were given the opportunity to choose one, and only one, of the following topics:

1. Comparative urbanism in practice
2. Suburbia and the urban fringe in urban theory since the 1970s
3. Residential segregation and gentrification: challenges for policy-makers
4. Cities as (dis)information spaces

The exam paper must demonstrate active engagement with relevant parts of the course syllabus, as well as with additional *scientific* sources (mainly articles) of relevance to the chosen topic. **Its substance should largely consist of a literature review on the given topic.**

The length of the paper should be in the range of 4000-6000 words (*excluding* references).

A good HGO4201 exam paper:

- Is focused, systematic, clear and well structured.
- Comprehensively discusses the literature in relation to the selected topic (comprehensive in the sense that the literature covered should not be restricted to singular perspectives, approaches or schools).
- Provides a coherent and relevant discussion of the literature, assessing and contrasting the presented material.
- Has a complete and consistent list of references, and is characterized by proper referencing throughout.

Based on the above, the following aspects will **detract** from the grade:

- Insufficient use of the course syllabus and of supplementary sources.
- Weak coherence, structure and analysis.
- Poor engagement with the literature (e.g. solely descriptive account of what the sources say).
- Incomplete or inconsistent use of references.
- Length of paper is below 3600 words or above 6600 words (excluding references). This means that a 10% deviation from the required range may be accepted.