

AR-468

UE Y : Description: Operations

| Cursus | Sem. | Type |
|--------------|----------|------|
| Architecture | MA2, MA4 | Opt. |
| Mob. AR | E | Opt. |

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|---|---------------------|
| Language of teaching | English |
| Credits | 0 |
| Withdrawal | Unauthorized |
| Session | Summer |
| Semester | Spring |
| Exam | During the semester |
| Workload | 0h |
| Weeks | 12 |
| Hours | 4 weekly |
| Courses | 3 weekly |
| Exercises | 1 weekly |
| Number of positions | |
| It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline. | |

Remark

pas donné en 2018-19 - Inscription faite par la section

Summary

The aim of the course will be the one of understanding the use of different tools of description, where the combination of different technics, scales, and "gazes" can produce innovative representations, and ultimately envision unexpected paths towards the construction of a territorial project.

Content

In recent decades, cities and territories have radically changed, making their analysis and representation neither a linear nor a generic operation but one requiring a deep reflection going beyond the agency of mapping itself and back to the idea of description as a "dense" operation, a manifold process of translating the visible into drawing and writing. This is not a novelty since, over the decades, *descriptivism* has cyclically returned into the vocabulary of architects and urbanists often disclosing a twofold question: on one side the difficulty of revealing reality and on the other the related necessity of investing the process of description itself of a "technically pertinent analysis".

While raising the issue of contemporary territorial representation, the aim of the course will be to perform descriptions allowing the students to understand the multiple interactions among different themes and scales of interpretations and to learn from the various dimensions that this understanding requires.

The first dimension addressed by the course will be that of the direct experience, the one of directly portraying spaces and practices. This dimension, while allowing to address the necessity of new and original categories, enables to enlarge the observer's spatial comprehension with tools as interviews, micro-stories or imaginary's representations. The direct experience, the "survey-on-field" is needed to reveal unexposed geographies or original design paths, to let spatial conflicts or latent synergies emerge.

The second dimension will be the one of gathering, collecting, and finally ordering fragments or single elements. This operation, far from being a process of mere accumulation, represents a strongly subjective interpretation, able to generate unexpected catalogues, sampling exercises, the construction of new taxonomies or the framing original atlases.

The aim of the course will be the one of understanding the use of different tools of description, where the merging of different technics, scales, and "gazes" can produce innovative representations, and ultimately envision unexpected paths towards territorial projects.

Keywords

Territory, Description, Tools, Representation

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Interpret critically territorial forms and dynamics
- Develop an inter-scalar description for a given territory
- Manage conceptualization tools
- Elaborate a personal visual language

Transversal skills

- Use a work methodology appropriate to the task.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Demonstrate a capacity for creativity.

Teaching methods

The course will develop through a series of lectures, collective discussions and practical assignments followed by desk critiques and intermediate reviews. The final delivery will consist of a presentation and a booklet containing the work produced during the semester.

Assessment methods

Continuous assessment.

Intermediate exercises, discussions and desk critiques: 60% of grade. Final presentation and booklet: 40% of grade.

The materials produced during the semester will be evaluated starting from the capacity of each student of describing - in a knowledgeable and original manner - a given territory.

Resources

Bibliography

Provided at the beginning of the semester