Syllabus of EARC 6304 (101), Spring 2011

Housing in Developing Countries

Course instructor: Dr. Omar Asfour

Course Description
The Master's Programme Bulletin states that the focus of this course is to:
"Explain housing issue considering its socioeconomic dimension, to focus on the
nature of housing problem, the manner of figuring out governmental policies in the
field of housing. It also explains the political, social, economical, physical, technical,
and ideological aspects of these policies. Also, to analyse and assess housing
features and policies, with some emphasis on the developing countries and the
Palestinian case".

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this course, you are expected to be able to:
- Realise the nature of housing problem as an essential field of urban development.
- Argue some policies that have been applied to housing problem in a given urban
  context.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of the various types of urban housing and the
  measures that have to be applied in planning residential neighbourhoods.
- Analyse the different aspects related to the Palestinian case with regards to housing
  problem and propose some solutions that can be applied to it.

Course Content
- Part 1: Housing Problem
  - Introduction to the housing problem.
  - Housing Policy and Strategy.
  - Urbanisation and global growth.
- Part 2: Low-Income Housing Policies:
  - Approaches to Low-Income Housing.
  - The issue of slum areas.
  - Housing finance and the issue of affordability.
  - Land for Housing Urban Poor People.
- Part 3: Housing status in Palestine:
  - An overview on housing situation in Gaza.
  - The issue of refugee camps and slum areas.
  - Emergency housing and disaster management.
- Part 4: Housing and neighbourhood design:
  - Planning of Housing Projects: Site Concept Development.
  - Planning residential neighbourhoods.
  - Sustainable Housing.
- Part 5: Research presentations and discussion.

Assessment
The final semester grade will be determined based on the evaluation of the entire semester
work. Course assignments may include readings, quizzes, written works, and oral
presentations. The final grade will be estimated as follows:
- Research Assignment 30%
- Short Presentation 10%
- Attendance 10%
- Final Exam 50%
- Total 100%
Research
Students are asked to team up in groups to carry out and present a research work of about 4000 words in Arabic or English. A research proposal should be submitted by the end of the fourth week at any of the following topics:

- Topic 1: The problem of housing land scarcity in Gaza Strip.
- Topic 2: The potential of slums upgrading in Gaza Strip.
- Topic 3: The search for policies to support sustainable housing in Gaza Strip.
- Topic 4: Low-cost housing (case studies with special focus on housing patterns).
- Topic 5: Residents' satisfaction of housing environments (with reference to Gaza Strip).
- Topic 6: A critical study of building laws and legislations in Palestine.

Students have to observe research ethics and present their progress regularly. The research should present valuable literature, practical examples, and working results.

Short Presentation
Each team is asked to choose one of the following research papers for the short presentation assignment:


Preliminary Reading List
There is no single text book recommended for this module. Some useful references are: