

## **CDE2506 Healthy Cities**

**AY2025/26 Semester 2**

### **Introduction**

Cities are complex and dynamic environments where urban planning, public health, and social wellbeing intersect to shape the lives of residents. This interdisciplinary course examines how urban environments influence human health outcomes and explores strategies for planning and governing more equitable and healthier cities. Through comparative case studies from cities and towns at varying stages of development, students will engage with diverse challenges and solutions.

This course offers an integrated, systems-based perspective on the intersection of urban planning, public health, governance, and social wellbeing. **CDE2506 Healthy Cities** is also the first **joint course between SSHSPH and NUS Cities**, providing a rare cross-faculty learning experience that prepares students to navigate complex urban systems and to reimagine cities as environments that maximise wellbeing, health, and human potential.

By integrating urban form, mobility, infrastructure, environment, planning, governance, and public health, this course equips students with practical insights to critically evaluate and co-appraise strategies for sustainable and equitable urban futures.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Recognise the value of interdisciplinary approaches linking urban planning and public health in advancing health equity and social wellbeing
- Analyse demographic shifts and their implications for urban planning
- Evaluate the influence of urban design and environmental factors on physical, mental and socio-cultural health outcomes in cities
- Evaluate the impacts of climate change on public health in urban contexts
- Appraise interventions and policies aimed at addressing health disparities in cities
- Engage with real-world contexts through site visits and community-based learning

## Course Leaders

**Dr. Su Aw**, Assistant Professor, NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health ([awsu@nus.edu.sg](mailto:awsu@nus.edu.sg))

**Dr. Dai Fangzhou**, Fellow, NUS Cities, College of Design and Engineering ([daifz@nus.edu.sg](mailto:daifz@nus.edu.sg))

**Adj. Prof. Loke Wai Chiong**, NUS Cities, College of Design and Engineering ([lokewc@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lokewc@nus.edu.sg))

## Course Schedule

**Lecture Venue:** TBC

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, every Thursday (Seminars + Studios)

\* For most weeks, there will be guest speaker(s) to teach on diverse concepts and case studies.

WEEK   DATE	DESCRIPTION
<b>WEEK 1</b> 15 JANUARY 2026	<b>Lecture 1</b> Introduction to Public Health, Health Equity, and Health in All Policies <u>Course Briefing</u>
<b>WEEK 2</b> 22 JANUARY 2026	<b>Lecture 2</b> Evolution & Development of Cities and Public Health
<b>WEEK 3</b> 29 JANUARY 2026	<b>Lecture 3</b> Open Space and Nature
<b>WEEK 4</b> 5 FEBRUARY 2026	<b>Lecture 4</b> Urban Mobility and Physical Health
<b>WEEK 5</b> 12 FEBRUARY 2026	<b>Lecture 5</b> Social Inclusion and Places
<b>WEEK 6</b> 19 FEBRUARY 2026	<b>Lecture 6</b> Urban Environments as Determinants of Health
<b>RECESS WEEK</b>	
<b>WEEK 7</b> 5 MARCH 2026	<b>Group Presentations (mid-term)</b>
<b>WEEK 8</b> 12 MARCH 2026	<b>Lecture 7</b> Food, Environment and Planning
<b>WEEK 9</b> 19 MARCH 2026	<b>Lecture 8</b> Housing and its Effect on Health
<b>WEEK 10</b> 26 MARCH 2026	<b>Lecture 9</b> Impact of Climate Change on Public Health
<b>WEEK 11</b> 2 APRIL 2026	<b>Lecture 10</b> Planning & Designing at Different Scales; Health & Wellbeing
<b>WEEK 12</b> 9 APRIL 2026	<b>Lecture 11</b> Real and Perceived Safety <u>Consultations on Group Projects</u>
<b>WEEK 13</b> 16 APRIL 2026	<b>Group Presentations (final term)</b>

## Assessment Components

Students will be assessed in this course through the following assessment components. Students will work in groups on different case studies based on the assignment briefing.

Assessment Component	Assessment Description	Weightage
Class Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Compulsory attendance for all seminars and studios.</li><li>○ Class participation during in-class and online discussions.</li><li>○ Constructive peer feedback during group presentations and discussions.</li></ul>	20%
Group Presentations	<b>Mid-Term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Introduction and Background (5%)</li><li>○ Data Analysis and Interpretation (10%)</li></ul>	15%
	<b>Final Term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Health and Social Impacts (10%)</li><li>○ Scan of Existing Policies and Programmes (10%)</li><li>○ Proposing Strategies (10%)</li></ul>	30%
Individual Reports	Students will deepen one strategy from their group project and write individual reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Feasibility and Equity Appraisal (15%)</li><li>○ Discussion of the Strategy on transferability and sustainability (20%)</li></ul>	35%