



Subject card

Subject name and code	Concrete in Culture, Architecture, and the Arts, PG_00072990						
Field of study	Technical Physics						
Date of commencement of studies	February 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	second-cycle studies		Subject group				
Mode of study	Full-time studies		Mode of delivery		e-learning		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	general academic profile		Assessment form		assessment		
Conducting unit	Department of Mechanics of Materials and Structures -> Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering -> Faculties of Gdańsk University of Technology						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr inż. Marzena Kurpińska				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 30.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to present concrete not only as a construction material, but also as an important element of material culture, architecture, art, and public space. The course develops students' ability to interpret architectural and urban phenomena within their historical, aesthetic, social, and environmental contexts. Students will explore examples of concrete applications in modernist and Brutalist architecture, public art, design, and contemporary debates on the quality of urban space.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[K7_U71] is able to apply knowledge from humanistic, social, economic or legal sciences in order to solve problems		The student is able to apply knowledge from the humanities and social sciences to interpret selected examples of architecture, public art, and urban spaces in which concrete serves technical, aesthetic, symbolic, or social functions.		[SU4] Assessment of ability to use methods and tools [SU5] Assessment of ability to present the results of task		
	[K7_K71] is able to explain the need to apply knowledge from humanistic, social, economic or legal sciences in order to function in a social environment		The student is able to explain the importance of incorporating humanistic and social perspectives into the assessment of the built environment, particularly with regard to the perception, use, and evaluation of concrete structures and spaces.		[SK1] Assessment of group work skills [SK2] Assessment of progress of work		
	[K7_W71] has general knowledge in humanistic, social, economic or legal sciences, including their fundamentals and applications		The student has a general understanding of the cultural, historical, aesthetic, and social significance of concrete in architecture, art, design, and contemporary debates on urban environments.		[SW2] Assessment of knowledge contained in presentation [SW3] Assessment of knowledge contained in written work and projects		

Subject contents	Course content – lecture Concrete as a material of material culture—its technical, aesthetic, symbolic, and social significance. The history of concrete in architecture—from antiquity to modern and contemporary architecture. Concrete and modernism—functionalism, twentieth-century urban planning, and the ideals of progress, rationality, and the social mission of architecture. Brutalism and the aesthetics of rawness—architectural concrete, material expression, and debates on beauty and the value of post-war architectural heritage. Concrete in art, sculpture, design, and public space—artworks, monuments, street furniture, interiors, and functional objects. The social perception of concrete spaces—housing estates, public squares, public buildings, stereotypes, the memory of place, and urban identity. Concrete in contemporary debates on cities and the environment—excessive hardscaping and concretisation of urban spaces, revitalisation, adaptive reuse of existing structures, durability, sustainable design, and responsibility for the built environment.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	No prerequisites are required. The course is intended for master’s-level students from various fields of study. Students are expected to participate actively in discussions, analyse examples of architecture, art, and urban spaces, and independently prepare a short paper or presentation on a selected topic.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	A paper or presentation on a selected topic related to concrete in culture, architecture, art, or urban space.	30.0%	70.0%
	Active participation in thematic discussions and in the analysis of examples presented during classes.	70.0%	30.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. <i>Adrian Forty, Concrete and Culture: A Material History, Reaktion Books, 2012</i> 2. <i>Catherine Croft, Concrete Architecture, Laurence King Publishing, 2004</i> 3. <i>Reyner Banham, The New Brutalism: Ethic or Aesthetic?, The Architectural Press, 1966.</i>	
	Supplementary literature	- Neville, A. M., <i>Properties of Concrete</i>, 5th ed., Pearson Education, Harlow, 2011. - de Larrard, F., <i>Concrete Mixture Proportioning: A Scientific Approach</i>, E & FN Spon, London–New York, 1999.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	- How did concrete become one of the symbols of modernity in twentieth-century architecture? - Can Brutalism be regarded as a valuable form of architectural heritage? Justify your answer using selected examples. - What technical, aesthetic, symbolic, and social functions can concrete perform in public spaces? - What are the main concerns underlying the contemporary critique of excessive urban concretisation, and does this criticism relate to the material itself or rather to how cities are designed?		
Practical activities within the subject	Not applicable		

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