URBAN STUDIES (URBN)

URBN 200b / ARCH 200b, Scales of Design  Bimal Mendis
Exploration of architecture and urbanism at multiple scales from the human to the world. Consideration of how design influences and shapes the material and conceptual spheres through four distinct subjects: the human, the building, the city, and the world. Examination of the role of architects, as designers, in constructing and shaping the inhabited and urban world. Lectures, readings, reviews and four assignments that address the spatial and visual ramifications of design. Not open to first-year students. Required for all Architecture majors.  HU

URBN 280a / AMST 197a / ARCH 280a / HSAR 219a, American Architecture and Urbanism  Elihu Rubin
Introduction to the study of buildings, architects, architectural styles, and urban landscapes, viewed in their economic, political, social, and cultural contexts, from precolonial times to the present. Topics include: public and private investment in the built environment; the history of housing in America; the organization of architectural practice; race, gender, ethnicity and the right to the city; the social and political nature of city building; and the transnational nature of American architecture.  HU

* URBN 314a / ARCH 314a, History of Landscape in Western Europe and the United States: Antiquity to 1950  Warren Fuermann
This course is designed as an introductory survey of the history of landscape architecture and the wider, cultivated landscape in Western Europe and the United States from the Ancient Roman period to mid-twentieth century America. Included in the lectures, presented chronologically, are the gardens of Ancient Rome, medieval Europe, the early and late Italian Renaissance, 17th century France, 18th century Britain, 19th century Britain and America with its public and national parks, and mid-twentieth century America. The course focuses each week on one of these periods, analyzes in detail iconic gardens of the period, and place them within their historical and theoretical context.  HU RP

* URBN 319b / EVST 290b, Geographic Information Systems  Charles Tomlin
A practical introduction to the nature and use of geographic information systems (GIS) in environmental science and management. Applied techniques for the acquisition, creation, storage, management, visualization, animation, transformation, analysis, and synthesis of cartographic data in digital form.

* URBN 327a / ARCH 327a, Difference and the City  Justin Moore
Four hundred and odd years after colonialism and racial capitalism brought twenty and odd people from Africa to the dispossessed indigenous land that would become the United States, the structures and systems that generate inequality and white supremacy persist. Our cities and their socioeconomic and built environments continue to exemplify difference. From housing and health to mobility and monuments, cities small and large, north and south, continue to demonstrate intractable disparities. The disparate impacts made apparent by the COVID-19 pandemic and the reinvigorated and global Black Lives Matter movement demanding change are remarkable. Change, of course, is another essential indicator of difference in urban environments, exemplified by the phenomena of disinvestment or gentrification. This course explores how issues like climate change and growing income inequality intersect with politics, culture, gender equality, immigration and migration, technology, and other considerations and forms of disruption.

* URBN 341b / ARCH 341b / GLBL 253b / LAST 318b, Globalization Space  Staff
Infrastructure space as a primary medium of change in global polity. Networks of trade, energy, communication, transportation, spatial products, finance, management, and labor, as well as new strains of political opportunity that reside within their spatial disposition. Case studies include free zones and automated ports around the world, satellite urbanism in South Asia, high-speed rail in Japan and the Middle East, agri poles in southern Spain, fiber optic submarine cable in East Africa, spatial products of tourism in North Korea, and management platforms of the International Organization for Standardization.  HU RP Course cr

URBN 345a / ARCH 345a, Civic Art: Introduction to Urban Design  Alan Plattus
Introduction to the history, analysis, and design of the urban landscape. Principles, processes, and contemporary theories of urban design; relationships between individual buildings, groups of buildings, and their larger physical and cultural contexts. Case studies from New Haven and other world cities.  HU

* URBN 360a / ARCH 360a, Urban Lab: An Urban World  Joyce Hsiang
Understanding the urban environment through methods of research, spatial analysis, and diverse means of representation that address historical, social, political, and environmental issues that consider design at the scale of the entire world. Through timelines, maps, diagrams, collages and films, students frame a unique spatial problem and speculate on urbanization at the global scale. Prerequisites: For non-majors: permission of the instructor is required. For ARCH majors: ARCH 150, 200, and 280.  HU 1½ Course cr

URBN 363a / ARCH 363a, Urban Lab: Stories and Counterstories  Anne Barrett
How do our constructed environments embody, maintain, and/or intensify dominant power structures and embedded biases, and how might we uncover fuller and more heterogeneous—perhaps discordant and uneasy—understandings of place? This is a multidisciplinary design-research seminar in which students learn and utilize visual methods of research and analysis to interrogate, exhume, examine, record, represent, and speculatively re-frame the social, political, architectural, ecological, economic, infrastructural, and material stories of place. We consider urban, suburban, and rural environments at multiple scales, from street names to planning resolutions, as we explore both visible and invisible spatial characteristics. Students select and work on their own research site, and respond to assignments organized around four conceptual themes/representational techniques (Monuments/Mappings; Spaces/Collage; Characters/Diagramming;
Work evolves cumulatively over the semester to produce the final project: a “visual anthology” of student sites.

1½ Course cr

* URBN 379b / EDST 240b / SOCY 396b, Cities, Suburbs, and School Choice  Sarah Camiscoli
The changing dynamic between cities and suburbs and the role of individuals and institutions in promoting desegregation or perpetuating segregation since the mid-twentieth century. The government’s role in the expansion of suburbs; desegregating schools; the rise of school choice through magnets and charters; the effects of inner-ring suburban desegregation and of urban gentrification on the landscape of education reform. Recommended preparation: EDST 110. Preference to Education Studies Scholars.  SO

* URBN 382b / EVST 349b / HIST 449Jb / HSHM 449b, Critical Data Visualization: History, Theory, and Practice  Bill Rankin
Critical analysis of the creation, use, and cultural meanings of data visualization, with emphasis on both the theory and the politics of visual communication. Seminar discussions include close readings of historical data graphics since the late eighteenth century and conceptual engagement with graphic semiotics, ideals of objectivity and honesty, and recent approaches of feminist and participatory data design. Course assignments focus on the research, production, and workshoping of students’ own data graphics; topics include both historical and contemporary material. No prior software experience is required; tutorials are integrated into weekly meetings. Basic proficiency in standard graphics software is expected by the end of the term, with optional support for more advanced programming and mapping software.  HU

* URBN 417b / ARCH 325b, Fugitive Practice: Introducing, Recentering, and Exploring Black and Indigenous Design Methods  Staff
This seminar introduces and explores Black, indigenous, and other historically marginalized modes of cultural production—collectively referred to here as “fugitive practices.” The course confronts the erasure (and re-centering) of these modes by rethinking the episteme of architecture—questioning history, planning, and urbanism—but also of the body, the design of objects, and making. Modes of sociocultural and aesthetic production explored in the course may include: improvisation in jazz, hip-hop and social dance; textiles of the Modern African Diaspora and indigenous peoples; informal economies; ingenuity in vernacular architecture; and others. The course is structured around seven two-week “modules,” each containing a seminar discussion, a design exercise, and a short written accompaniment. It is conducted in collaboration with a parallel seminar being offered by faculty at Howard University.  HU RP

* URBN 490a / ARCH 490a, Senior Research Colloquium  Marta Caldeira
Research and writing colloquium for seniors in the Urban Studies and History, Theory, and Criticism tracks. Under guidance of the instructor and members of the Architecture faculty, students define their research proposals, shape a bibliography, improve research skills, and seek criticism of individual research agendas. Requirements include proposal drafts, comparative case study analyses, presentations to faculty, and the formation of a visual argument. Guest speakers and class trips to exhibitions, lectures, and special collections encourage use of Yale’s resources.

* URBN 491b / ARCH 491b, Senior Project  Marta Caldeira
An essay or project in the student’s area of concentration. Students in the history, theory, and criticism track or in the urban studies track pursue independent research with an adviser; this project must terminate in a senior essay.