URBAN STUDIES (URBN)

URBN 160a, Introduction to Urban Studies  Elihu Rubin
An introduction to key topics, research methods, and practices in urban studies, an interdisciplinary field of inquiry and action rooted in the experience of cities. As physical artifacts, the advent of large cities have reflected rapid industrialization and advanced capitalism. They are inseparable from the organization of economic life; the flourishing of cultures; and the formation of identities. They are also places where power is concentrated and inequalities are (re)produced. Debates around equity are filtered through urban environments, where struggles over jobs, housing, education, mobility, public health, and public safety are front and center. The course is organized as a colloquium with numerous guests. Accessible entirely online, there will also be live, in-person events, with social distancing and face masks/shields, available to students in New Haven.  HU, SO

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 230b / ARCH 230b / STCY 176b, Introduction to the Study of the City  Alexander Garvin
An examination of forces shaping American cities and strategies for dealing with them. Topics include housing, commercial development, parks, zoning, urban renewal, landmark preservation, new towns, and suburbs. The course includes games, simulated problems, fieldwork, lectures, and discussion.  SO

URBN 280b / AMST 197b / ARCH 280b / HSAR 219b, 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 314b / ARCH 314b / SAST 384b, The City Before and After the Tubewell  Anthony Acciavatti
What do such disparate cities as New Delhi, Jakarta, Mexico City, and Phoenix all have in common? In short, each city relies on a fantastic technology that few people know anything about but has transformed the shape and life of cities and their hinterlands: the tubewell. Technologies for drawing up groundwater, tubewells are used in places where municipal water supply is non-existent, unreliable, or often polluted. A minor technology with a global reach, the tubewell is to the city what the elevator was to the skyscraper in the booming American metropolis of the early twentieth century. In this course we look at how tubewells and other decentralized technologies have radically transformed urban and agricultural spaces across the globe since the nineteenth century to the present. We watch how people exult before these technologies; we witness how governments and philanthropies as well as farmers and townspeople appropriate them for radically different ends. And we consider why.  HU

* URBN 341b / ARCH 341b / GLBL 253b / LAST 318b, Globalization Space  Keller Easterling
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, agripoles 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

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 360b / ARCH 360b, Urban Lab: An Urban World  Staff
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 film, 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 362a / ARCH 362a, Urban Lab: City Making  Anthony Acciavatti
How architects represent, analyze, construct, and speculate on critical urban conditions as distinct approaches to city making. Investigation of a case study analyzing urban morphologies and the spatial systems of a city through diverse means of representation that address historical, social, political, and environmental issues. Through maps, diagrams, collages and text, students learn to understand spatial problems and project urban interventions. Prerequisites: For non-majors: permission of the instructor is required. For ARCH majors: ARCH 150, 200, and 280.  1½ Course cr

* URBN 416a / ARCH 316a, Revolutionary Cities: Protest, Rebellion and Representation in Modern Urban Space  Alan Plattus
Cities have always been hotbeds of radical ideas and actions. Their cafes and taverns, drawing rooms and universities have been incubators of new ideas, revolutionary ideologies and debate, while their streets and public spaces have been the sites of demonstrations, protests, and uprisings. Since cities are key nodes in larger networks of trade and cultural exchange, these local events have often had a global audience and impact. This seminar explores the interaction of urban space and event, and the media and technologies of revolutionary representation, through case studies of particular cities at transformational moments in their development. These begin with Boston in the 1760s and 1770s, and may include Paris in 1789, 1830, 1848, 1871 and again in 1968, St. Petersburg in 1917, Beijing in 1949 and again in 1989, Havana in 1959, Prague, Berlin and Johannesburg and other cities in 1989, Cairo in 2011, Hong Kong in 2011-12, 2014 and 2019, and other urban sites of the Occupy and Black Lives Matter movements. Course work in modern history is recommended.

* URBN 440a / AFST 345a / SOCY 218a, Space, Time, and the African City  Denise Lim
Definitions of the urban often vary according to country and culture. In the United States, the city is often broadly defined by sociologists as a relatively large and dense human settlement composed of heterogenous individuals. In some definitions of the urban, these can include spatial constructs of the “town,” “suburb,” “city,” or “megacity” with populations as small as 200 or as large as 10 million people. This seminar aims to explore how culturally-constructed notions of space, time, and the city inform African urban theory and practice. This course delineates sociological theories of urban space and time in the U.S. and Europe, explores how postcolonial theory challenges Western concepts, and examines six case-studies of contemporary African cities. As spaces with complex colonial legacies and transnational connections, a rich collection of cultural artifacts such as film, the novel, photography, music, and visual art are used to research the spatial and temporal politics of urban life in Accra (Ghana), Cape Town (South Africa), Cairo (Egypt), Lagos (Nigeria), Nairobi (Kenya), and Johannesburg (South Africa). Sophomore Seminar: Registration preference is given to sophomores. Urban studies majors writing their senior essay or African studies students in need of writing supervision are welcome to apply. This course is not normally open to first-year students.  WR, SO

* 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.