URBAN STUDIES (URBN)

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 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 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 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 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—if possibly discordant or 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; Boundaries/Section). Work evolves cumulatively over the semester to produce the final project: a “visual anthology” of student sites.  1½ Course cr

* 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 workshopping 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 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.