URBAN STUDIES

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Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary field grounded in the physical and social spaces of the city and the larger built environment. The Urban Studies major is situated within Yale’s liberal arts framework and draws on the broader academic context and expertise of the Yale School of Architecture, including the areas of urban design and development, urban and architectural history, urban theory and representation, globalization and infrastructure, transportation and mobility, heritage and preservation, and community-based planning. The major introduces students to the following bodies of knowledge: history, theory and contemporary analysis of urban morphologies, spaces, societies, and political economies; conceptual tools and analytical methods to understand urban environments and issues through spatial terms; and practices of and speculative approaches to urban planning and design.

The major prepares undergraduates for a variety of future careers and fields of graduate study related to urban planning, design, and development. These include professional and practice-oriented fields such as urban planning, law, non-profit management, public policy, real estate development, and architecture; as well as research-oriented fields such as geography, sociology, anthropology, urban planning, and architecture.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Students in the Class of 2020 and 2021 Students interested in pursuing a major in Urban Studies should consult with the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) early in the fall 2019 term. Upon approved fulfillment of the requirements indicated below, upper-level students may earn a B.A. degree in Urban Studies.

Students in the Class of 2022 and subsequent classes Students majoring in Urban Studies must take thirteen course credits approved by the DUS. The major is organized around survey courses, methods courses, related electives, and a one- or two-term senior requirement.

Thirteen term courses are required for the major, including the senior requirement. Each student, in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) or a departmental faculty adviser, bears the responsibility for designing a coherent program, which must include the following elements: 3 surveys, 3 methods courses, 4 or 6 electives, depending on the senior requirement; and a one- or two-term senior requirement. All students are required to take either ARCH 360 or 362, one of the Urban Lab courses.

Surveys Students choose three survey courses from the following list, of which one course in ARCH is required. Surveys should be completed by the end of the second year.

Surveys: ARCH 200, ARCH 280, ARCH 341, ARCH 385, AMST 196, ANTH 414, EVST 226, HSHM 211

Methods Courses Students choose either ARCH 360 or 362 (Urban Labs) as one of the three required courses from the following list that introduces various methods of understanding and analyzing urbanism and the city. Students should consider completing at least two of these courses by the end of their junior year.

Methods Courses: ARCH 230, 345, 353, 360, 362, AMST 348, ANTH 303, EVST 290, HSHM 422, SOCY 160

Electives Students choose five electives if enrolling in the two-term senior requirement; 6 electives if opting for the one-term senior requirement. Each student is responsible for selecting their elective courses from the approved list available on the Urban Studies website or by petition of the DUS. Students who take two Urban Labs (1.5 credits each) may take 4 electives.

Credit/D/Fail No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the Urban Studies major.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT

All majors must satisfy a senior requirement undertaken during the senior year. Students have the option of pursuing a yearlong senior project, which includes the ARCH 490, Senior Research Colloquium in the fall and URBN 491, Senior Project in the spring. The senior project may be a written paper or a project that could encompass a variety of media. The primary adviser must be a member of the architecture faculty. Students not choosing a yearlong project may enroll in an advanced seminar (ARCH 400–490), and produce a final paper of twenty to twenty-five pages in addition to existing course work. The seminar should be selected in consultation with the DUS. Note that students pursuing this option must also take an additional elective.

ADVISING AND INTENT TO MAJOR

Students may declare their intent to major during their second year. The intent to major process will include meeting with the DUS to discuss the intended course of study; submitting a Declaration of Intent to Major form and completing the surveys by the end of the second year. More information regarding this process, the relevant forms, and submission link is available on the program’s website. Schedules for majors must be discussed with, and approved by, the DUS in Urban Studies. Only then may a schedule be submitted to the residential college dean’s office.

Courses in the School of Architecture Unless otherwise indicated in the course descriptions, all courses in the School of Architecture are open to majors and nonmajors with permission of the instructor and the graduate registrar. They are not available for the Credit/D/Fail option. Students are admitted on the basis of their previous course work and previous performance.
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 13 courses (incl senior req)

Specific courses required ARCH 360 or ARCH 362

Distribution of courses 3 surveys, inc 1 ARCH course (to be completed by second year); 3 methods courses, one of which is ARCH 360 or 362; 4–6 electives as specified

Senior Requirement ARCH 490 and URBN 491; or adv seminar (ARCH 400–490) and addt elective

FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH URBAN STUDIES

Professors Keller Easterling (School of Architecture), Alexander Garvin (Adjunct)(School of Architecture), Jennifer Klein (History), Alan Plattus (School of Architecture), Helen Siu (Anthropology)

Associate Professors Laura Barraclough (American Studies), Erik Harms (Anthropology), Bill Rankin (History of Science, Medicine, and Public Health), Elihu Rubin (School of Architecture, American Studies)

Assistant Professors Anthony Acciavatti (visiting) (School of Architecture), Joyce Hsiang (School of Architecture), Albert Laguna (American Studies), Bimal Mendis (Adjunct)(School of Architecture), Elihu Rubin (School of Architecture)

Lecturers Riché Barnes (Anthropology), Alexander Garvin (School of Architecture), Jay Gitlin (History)

Critics Marta Caldeira (School of Architecture), Andrei Harwell (School of Architecture), Surry Schlabs (School of Architecture)

Courses

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 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 341b / ARCH 341b / GLBL 253b / LAST 318b, Globalization Space  Keller Easterling
Infrastructure space as a primary medium of change in global policy. 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 353a / ARCH 353a, Urban Field Geography  Elihu Rubin
A methods seminar in urban field geography. Traveling on foot, students engage in on-site study of architecture, urban planning and design, cultural landscapes, and spatial patterns in the city. Learn how to "read" the urban landscape, the intersection of forces that have produced the built environment over time. HU

* URBN 360b / ARCH 360b, Urban Lab: An Urban World  Joyce Hsiang
Understanding the urban environment through methods of research, spatial analysis, and diverse means of representation 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 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.