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. Students have the ability to chart their own course through this interdisciplinary field, but the major emphasizes the following bodies of knowledge: history, theory, and analysis of urban form; the political economy of society and space; conceptual tools and descriptive-analytical methods to understand urban environments; and the theory and practice of 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, landscape architecture, law, nonprofit management, public policy, real estate, and architecture; as well as research-oriented fields such as geography, sociology, anthropology, history and theory of urban planning, and urban and architectural history.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

See Links to the attributes indicating courses approved for Urban Studies major requirements.

Thirteen course credits 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, 5, or 6 electives (depending on the credit value of the courses); and a one- or two-term senior requirement.

Surveys Students choose three survey courses from the following list, of which one URBN course is required. Surveys should be completed by the end of the second year. Additional approved survey courses can be searched on Yale Course Search (YC URBN Survey Course).

Surveys: URBN 1300, 1101, 1100, 1102, EVST 3226, ARCH 1001

Methods courses Students must choose an Urban Lab as one of the three required methods courses. The courses in the following lists introduce 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. Additional approved Urban Lab and Methods courses can be searched on Yale Course Search (YC URBN Urban Lab and YC URBN Methods Course).

Urban Lab Courses: URBN 3601, 3602, 3603, 3604, 3605

Methods Courses: URBN 2000, 3601, 3602, 3603, 3604, 3605, ANTH 3720, EVST 2290

Electives Students choose five electives if enrolling in the two-term senior requirement; six electives if opting for the one-term senior requirement. Each student is responsible for selecting their elective courses from the approved list or by petition of the DUS. Students who take two Urban Labs (1.5 credits each) may take 4–5 electives depending on the selected senior requirement. Additional approved elective courses can be searched on Yale Course Search (YC URBN Elective).

Credit/D/Fail No course taken Credit/D/Fail may be applied toward the requirements of the major.

Outside credit Courses taken at another institution or during an approved summer or term-time study abroad program may count toward the major requirements with DUS approval.

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 URBN 4900, Senior Research Colloquium, in the fall and URBN 4901, Senior Project, in the spring. The senior project may be a written paper (minimum 7,500 words in the body of the document) or a project that could encompass a variety of media with permission from DUS and the adviser. The primary adviser must be a member of the architecture faculty. Students not choosing a yearlong project may enroll in an advanced seminar (URBN 4000–4910), and produce a final paper of 6,000 words in addition to existing coursework. The seminar should be selected in consultation with the DUS. Note that students pursuing the one-term, advanced seminar option must also take an additional elective.

ADVISING AND INTENT TO MAJOR

Students are encouraged to declare their intent to major by the end of their second year, but applications to the major are accepted on a rolling basis. The intent to major process includes submission of an Intent to Major form with requested materials followed by a meeting with the DUS to discuss the intended course of study. Schedules for majors must be discussed with, and approved by, the DUS in Urban Studies.

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 coursework and previous performance.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites None

Number of courses 13 course credits (incl senior req)

Distribution of courses 3 surveys, incl 1 URBN course (to be completed by second year); 3 methods courses, one of which must be an Urban Lab; 4–6 electives, as specified and depending on the credit values of the courses selected

Senior requirement URBN 4900 and 4901; or adv seminar and an addtl elective