

Urban Studies

The Urban Studies Program equips students to analyze the city and urban life in the United States and around the planet through a variety of disciplinary lenses drawn from the humanities and social sciences, applying both qualitative and quantitative methods for scholarly research and community engagement.

Cities are sites of problems and promise, inequality and solidarity, conflict and community. Processes of urbanization shape the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century. Urban Studies students explore the history of cities, urban and suburban growth and transformation, the organization and design of built, social, and natural environments, urban politics and policy, and the role of cities and urbanization in art, culture, and public life. The undergraduate program emphasizes global and local perspectives to understand how diverse communities have shaped cities through time, investigates the spatial dimensions of social relations and cultural meaning, and challenges students to work towards inclusive, equitable, and sustainable places.

Through experiences both inside and outside the classroom, Urban Studies concentrators learn to analyze urban life and the built environment through a variety of disciplinary lenses, to think creatively and critically about both the problems and potential of cities, and to use evidence-based approaches to address real-world issues. Above all, our students are dedicated to understanding, envisioning and creating cities that are inclusive and sustainable. An Urban Studies degree prepares students for a wide range of careers, with our graduates going on to work in government, the non-profit sector, business, law, education, planning and design, public health and medicine, academia, media and technology, and the arts.

The Urban Studies curriculum provides students with the flexibility and range to craft an individualized course plan exploring their own specific interests in the urban world. These are some of the hallmarks of our program:

Interdisciplinary Approaches: A quintessentially interdisciplinary program, urban studies equips students with the tools to seek comprehensive approaches to the complex challenges facing cities today. Concentrators can choose from urban studies classes that draw upon American studies, anthropology, economics, sociology, history, political science, history of art and architecture, design, environmental studies, literature, media studies, cultural theory, education, archaeology, international affairs and public policy, and more. The program encourages students to draw from these diverse disciplines to craft an individualized concentration course plan that explores their own interests in particular urban themes; for example, cities and climate change, urban inequality and justice, or transportation planning and public space (to name just a few). In the process, students are taught to examine urban life using both qualitative and quantitative methods, to communicate their ideas clearly and convincingly, and to collaborate on both scholarly and applied projects.

Local Meets Global: Students in our program are taught to apply their knowledge and skills to urban contexts around the globe and down the street. Several courses introduce students to broader processes and diverse histories of urbanization in the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America; while others offer a deep dive into urban issues and debates in our own backyard of Providence, Rhode Island. Many of our concentrators also choose to enrich their coursework at Brown by spending a semester or summer studying abroad in a new city, taking advantage of the over 130 overseas programs offered by the university and its partners.

Faculty Mentorship: Urban studies concentrators have the unique opportunity to work closely with faculty from departments across the university. In addition to teaching classes, urban studies faculty offer advising and mentorship to students pursuing independent studies, community service projects, capstone papers, and honors thesis research. All urban studies faculty serve as concentration advisors for our undergraduates, providing individualized attention to guide students in crafting a set of courses and experiences that reflect their academic and

career goals. Faculty members hold frequent office hours and welcome students to discuss their interests in urban issues and the concentration.

Community Engagement: The Urban Studies Program has a close relationship with the city of Providence. Faculty members have served on local and state government commissions and lend their expertise to a wide range of community initiatives. The program assists interested students in finding summer internships with relevant local government agencies, cultural institutions, and non-profit organizations, where they can apply lessons they have learned in the classroom to real-world issues beyond campus. Students are encouraged to undertake research involving the study of Providence and nearby cities for their honors theses or capstone projects. Urban studies concentrators also have the option of pursuing an Engaged Scholarship Certificate, a program that trains students in community-oriented research methods and facilitates collaborative projects with a variety of local organizations.

Concentrators will take 10 courses drawn from four categories (Introductory, Research Methods, Core, Seminar, and Complementary) and complete either a capstone or an honors thesis.

For a concentration, the program requires ten courses selected from four course groups:

Introduction (choose one):		1
POLS 0220	City Politics	
URBN 0210	The City: An Introduction to Urban Studies	
URBN 0230	Urban Life in Providence: An Introduction	
Research Methods (choose one):		1
APMA 0650	Introduction to Probability and Statistics	
APMA 1650	Introduction to Probability and Statistics with Calculus	
APMA 1660	Statistical Inference II	
CLPS 0900	Statistical Methods	
ECON 1620	Introduction to Econometrics	
PHP 1501	Essentials of Data Analysis	
POLS 1600	Political Research Methods	
SOC 1020	Methods of Social Research	
SOC 1100	Introductory Statistics for Social Research	
Core Courses (3 courses required, in at least 3 disciplines, such as American studies, anthropology, economics, education, English, history, history of art and architecture, political science, and sociology, as well as urban planning when staffing allows)		3
AMST 1612D	Cities of Sound: Place and History in American Pop Music	
ANTH 1201	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis	
ANTH 1236	Urban Life: Anthropology in and of the City	
ANTH 1255	Anthropology of Disasters	
ECON 1410	Urban Economics	
EEPS 1320	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Environmental Applications	
ENGL 0100N	City Novels	
ENGL 0700R	Modernist Cities	
ENGL 1711D	Reading New York	
ENVS 1400	Sustainable Design in the Built Environment	
ENVS 1580	Environmental Stewardship and Resilience in Urban Systems	
HIAA 0100	Introduction to Architectural Design Studio	
HIAA 0710	The Other History of Modern Architecture	
HIAA 0770	Architecture and Urbanism of Africa	
HIAA 0850	Modern Architecture	
HIAA 0860	Contemporary Architecture	
HIAA 0861	City and Cinema	

HIST 1550	American Urban History, 1600-1870	ARCH 1200F	City and the Festival: Cult Practices and Architectural Production in the Ancient Near East
HIST 1551	American Urban History, 1870-1965 (HIST 1550::American Urban History to 1870)	ARCH 1600	Archaeologies of the Near East
POLS 0220	City Politics	ARCH 1720	How Houses Build People
POLS 1310	African American Politics	ARCH 1900	The Archaeology of College Hill
SOC 1330	Remaking the City	ECON 1370	Race and Inequality in the United States
SOC 1340	Principles and Methods of Geographic Information Systems	ENGL 1710I	Harlem Renaissance: The Politics of Culture
SOC 1640	Social Exclusion	ENGN 1930S	Land Use and Built Environment: An Entrepreneurial View
URBN 0074	Nineteenth-Century Architecture	ENVS 0520	Wild Literature in the Urban Landscape
URBN 1000	Fieldwork in the Urban Community	ENVS 1410	Environmental Law and Policy
URBN 1200	The United States Metropolis, 1945-2000	ENVS 1555	Local Food Systems and Urban Agriculture
URBN 1250	The Political Foundations of the City	HIAA 0550	Painters, Builders, and Bankers in Early Modern Italy
URBN 1260	Housing in America	HIAA 0560	Constructing the Eternal City: Popes and Pilgrims in Early Modern Rome
URBN 1270	Urban Politics and Urban Public Policy	HIAA 1560C	Renaissance Venice and the Veneto
Seminar courses (choose three)²	3	HIAA 1850G	Contemporary American Urbanism: City Design and Planning, 1945-2000
AMST 1903E	City of the American Century: The Culture and Politics of Urbanism in Postwar New York City	HIST 1140	Samurai and Merchants, Prostitutes and Priests: Japanese Urban Culture in the Early Modern Period
HIAA 1850H	Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory	HIST 1741	Capitalism, Land and Water: A World History: 1848 to the present
HIAA 1910A	Providence Architecture	HIST 1961B	Cities and Urban Culture in China
SOC 0310	Theory and Practice of Engaged Scholarship	HIST 1965A	City as Modernity: Popular Culture, Mass Consumption, Urban Entertainment in Nineteenth-Century Paris
URBN 1870A	American Culture and the City	HIST 1967R	History of Rio de Janeiro
URBN 1870D	Downtown Development	HIST 1979J	London: 1750 to the Present
URBN 1870G	Ancient Cities: From the Origins Through Late Antiquity	HIST 1979L	Urban History of Latin America
URBN 1870J	The Politics of Community Organizing	IAPA 1700A	Program Evaluation
URBN 1870K	Jerusalem Divided: Politics and Cultural Heritage	ITAL 1580	Word, Image and Power in Early Modern Italy
URBN 1870M	Urban Regimes in the American Republic	JAPN 0710	Japanese Cities: Tokyo and Kyoto
URBN 1870N	The Cultural and Social Life of the Built Environment	POLS 1760	Infrastructure Policy
URBN 1870Q	Cities in Mind: Modern Urban Thought and Theory	POLS 1824D	Power and Prosperity in Urban America
URBN 1870T	Transportation: An Urban Planning Perspective	RUSS 1440	Imagining Moscow: Utopia and Urban Spaces in 20th-Century Russian Culture
URBN 1870Z	Housing Justice	STS 1701Q	The Fate of the Coast
URBN 1871B	Berlin: Global Metropolis (1945-2020)	SOC 0130	American Heritage: Democracy, Inequality, and Public Policy
Complementary Curriculum (Total of 2 courses required):	2	SOC 1270	Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the Modern World
1. Any course from the Introductory or Core Curriculum options above not used to fulfill another requirement		SOC 1540	Human Needs and Social Services
2. OR Any of the following:		3. RISD courses approved by the Urban Studies Program each semester ³ as applicable to the Urban Studies concentration.	
AFRI 0600	Race, Gender, and Urban Politics	4. Any course taken at another university in the US or abroad and approved by the Urban Studies Program each semester (2 maximum)	
AFRI 0620	African-American Life in the City		
AMST 1611A	Making America: Twentieth-Century U.S. Immigrant/Ethnic Literature		
AMST 1903G	Oral History and Community Memory		
AMST 1904M	Charles Chapin and the Urban Public Health Movement		
ANTH 0450	Inequality, Sustainability, and Mobility in a Car-Clogged World		
ANTH 1301	Anthropology of Homelessness		
ARCH 0317	Heritage in the Metropolis: Remembering and Preserving the Urban Past		
ARCH 0400	City and Sanctuary in the Ancient World		
ARCH 1150	Cities and Urban Space in the Ancient World		
ARCH 1155	Cities, Colonies and Global Networks in the Western Mediterranean		
		Total Credits	10

¹ There are also other statistics courses offered by other departments (e.g., Applied Mathematics, Cognitive Sciences, and Psychology). On occasion, an alternative research skills course may be approved for a specific concentration.

² The courses provide opportunities to undertake research or fieldwork projects and all qualify as "capstone" experiences.

³ No more than **two** may be used to satisfy the requirements of this concentration. The RISD course is identified in the student's record at Brown by a RISD course code.

Off-Campus Courses: Some courses taken outside Brown (e.g., in study abroad programs) may be used for credit towards the concentration *if the material covered directly corresponds to that taught in Brown courses, or is relevant to the complementary curriculum*. Such courses will be approved each semester by the concentration advisor.

Honors

The Urban Studies Honors Program is intended for students who have been highly successful in their Urban Studies concentration coursework and who want the opportunity to pursue a research project in more depth than is possible in an undergraduate seminar. Such a project requires a high degree of initiative and dedication. It also requires significant amounts of time and energy, as well as demonstrative skills in research and writing. Students must apply in the middle of the second semester of their junior year. (This applies to students who will complete the degree requirements in December, as well as May.) The student's honors application must include a brief research proposal, a list of completed urban coursework, and must be signed by a faculty member willing to serve as the student's honors advisor. During the Fall and Spring of the senior year, honors candidates must complete two additional courses beyond the ten courses required for the concentration: URBN 1971 Senior Honors Thesis I in Urban Studies(S/NC) and URBN 1972 Senior Honors Thesis II in Urban Studies (grade). The candidate's final thesis must be of outstanding quality, in order to qualify for honors.