Urban Studies

The Urban Studies program teaches students to analyze the city, urban life, and urbanization through a variety of disciplinary lenses. Students learn where cities come from, how they grow, thrive, and decline, how they are organized, and how to construct meaningful, inclusive, secure, and sustainable places. The curriculum examines how urban problems arise, how they have been previously addressed, and how to plan cities of the future. Concentrators enjoy the breadth of courses in American Studies, economics, history, literature, history of art and architecture, political science, sociology, and planning as well as provide in-depth courses integrating those perspectives. We introduce the fundamentals of Urban Studies scholarship as well as intense examination of an urban problem in focused seminars. These advanced seminars offer opportunities to write extensive and synthetic interdisciplinary analyses that serve as capstones to the concentration. The program’s 10-course curriculum provides sufficient flexibility to allow students to pursue specific urban interests or to take courses in urban focus areas of Built Environment; Humanities; Social Sciences; and Sustainable Urbanism. The Program insures that students master at least one basic research methodology and perform research or fieldwork projects, which may result in an honors thesis. Fieldwork training includes working with local agencies and nonprofit organizations on practical urban problems. Capstone projects entail original research papers in Urban Studies seminars; academically supervised video, artistic, or community service projects; and Honors Theses for eligible concentrators.

Concentrators who are especially interested in making deeper connections between their curriculum and long-term engaged activities such as internships, public service, humanitarian and development work, and many other possible forms of community involvement might consider the Engaged Scholar Program (https://www.brown.edu/academics/urban-studies/curriculum/engaged-scholars-program/) in US. The program combines preparation, experience, and reflection to offer students opportunities to enhance the integration of academic learning and social engagement.

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

### Introduction (choose one):
- 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):
- APMA 0650 Essential Statistics
- APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I
- APMA 1660 Statistical Inference II
- CLPS 0890 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):
- 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
**HIST 1551** American Urban History, 1870-1965 (HIST 1550: American Urban History to 1870)
**POLS 0220** City Politics
**POLS 1310** African American Politics
**POLS 1330** Remaking the City
**SOC 0310** Theory and Practice of Engaged Scholarship
**URBN 0074** Nineteenth-Century Architecture
**URBN 1000** Fieldwork in the Urban Community
**URBN 1200** The United States Metropolis, 1945-2000
**URBN 1250** The Political Foundations of the City
**URBN 1260** Housing in America
**URBN 1270** Urban Politics and Urban Public Policy

**Seminar courses (choose three)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 1903E</td>
<td>City of the American Century: The Culture and Politics of Urbanism in Postwar New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIAA 1850H</td>
<td>Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIAA 1910A</td>
<td>Providence Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 0310</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Engaged Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870A</td>
<td>American Culture and the City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870D</td>
<td>Downtown Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870G</td>
<td>Ancient Cities: From the Origins Through Late Antiquity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870I</td>
<td>The Changing American City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870J</td>
<td>The Politics of Community Organizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870K</td>
<td>Jerusalem Divided: Politics and Cultural Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870M</td>
<td>Urban Regimes in the American Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870N</td>
<td>The Cultural and Social Life of the Built Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870Q</td>
<td>Cities in Mind: Modern Urban Thought and Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870S</td>
<td>The City, the River, and the Sea: Social and Environmental Change at the Water's Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870T</td>
<td>Transportation: An Urban Planning Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870V</td>
<td>City Senses: Urbanism Beyond Visual Spectacle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1870Z</td>
<td>Housing Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1871B</td>
<td>Berlin: Global Metropolis (1945-2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBN 1941</td>
<td>How to Shape a City: An Introduction to Real Estate Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Complementary Curriculum (Total of 2 courses required):

1. Any course from the Introductory or Core Curriculum options above not used to fulfill another requirement

2. OR Any of the following:

- JAPN 0710
- ITAL 1580
- IAPA 1803E
- IAPA 1700A
- HIST 1980T
- HIST 1979L
- HIST 1979J
- HIST 1967R
- HIST 1961B
- HIST 1741
- HIAA 1560C
- HIAA 0560
- HIAA 0550
- ENVS 1555
- ENVS 1410
- ENVS 0520
- ENGN 1930S
- ENGL 1710I
- ECON 1370
- ARCH 1900
- ARCH 1720
- ARCH 1600
- ARCH 0400
- ARCH 1150
- ARCH 1155
- ARCH 1200F
- ARCH 1000
- ECON 1370
- ENGL 1710I
- ENVS 0520
- ENVS 1410
- ENVS 1555
- HIAA 0550
- HIAA 1560C
- HIAA 1580C
- HIAA 1850G
- HIST 1140
- HIST 1741
- HIST 1961B
- HIST 1965A
- HIST 1967R
- HIST 1979J
- HIST 1979L
- HIST 1980T
- IAPA 1700A
- IAPA 1803E
- ITAL 1580
- JAPN 0710

2. OR Any of the following:

1. Any course from the Introductory or Core Curriculum
2. Any course in the Urban Studies Department
3. RISD courses approved by the Urban Studies Program
4. Any course taken at another university in the US or abroad and approved by the Urban Studies Program

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 a 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.