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 0800 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 |

**Seminar courses (choose three) 3**

| AMST 1903E | City of the American Century: The Culture and Politics of Urbanism in Postwar New York City |
| EDUC 1650 | Policy Implementation in Education |
| HIAA 1850H | Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory |
| HIAA 1910A | Providence Architecture |
| SOC 0310 | Theory and Practice of Engaged Scholarship |
| URBN 1870A | Ancient Cities: From the Origins Through Late Antiquity |
| URBN 1870G | The Changing American City |
| URBN 1870K | Jerusalem Divided: Politics and Cultural Heritage |
| URBN 1870M | Urban Regimes in the American Republic |
| URBN 1870N | The Cultural and Social Life of the Built Environment |
| URBN 1870Q | Cities in Mind: Modern Urban Thought and Theory |
| URBN 1870S | The City, the River, and the Sea: Social and Environmental Change at the Water’s Edge |
| URBN 1870T | Transportation: An Urban Planning Perspective |
| URBN 1870V | City Senses: Urbanism Beyond Visual Spectacle |
| URBN 1870Z | Housing Justice |
| URBN 1871B | Berlin: Global Metropolis (1945-2020) |
URBN 1941 How to Shape a City: An Introduction to Real Estate Development

Complementary Curriculum (Total of 2 courses required): 2

1. Any course from the Introductory or Core Curriculum options above not used to fulfill another requirement
2. OR Any of the following:

AFRI 0600 Race, Gender, and Urban Politics
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 Chaplin 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 Cities 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
ARCH 1200F City and the Festival: Cult Practices and Architectural Production in the Ancient Near East
ARCH 1600 Archaeologies of the Near East
ARCH 1720 How Houses Build People
ARCH 1900 The Archaeology of College Hill
ECON 1370 Race and Inequality in the United States
EDUC 1150 Education, the Economy and School Reform
EDUC 1430 Social Psychology of Race, Class, and Gender
ENGL 1710I Harlem Renaissance: The Politics of Culture
ENGN 1930S Land Use and Built Environment: An Entrepreneurial View
ENVS 0520 Wild Literature in the Urban Landscape
ENVS 1410 Environmental Law and Policy
ENVS 1555 Urban Agriculture: The Importance of Localized Food Systems
HIAA 0550 Gold, Wool and Stone: Painters and Bankers in Renaissance Tuscany
HIAA 0560 Constructing the Eternal City: Popes and Pilgrims in Early Modern Rome
HIAA 1560C Renaissance Venice and the Veneto
HIAA 1850G Contemporary American Urbanism: City Design and Planning, 1945-2000
HIST 1140 Samurai and Merchants, Prostitutes and Priests: Japanese Urban Culture in the Early Modern Period
HIST 1741 Capitalism, Land and Water: A World History: 1848 to the present
HIST 1961B Cities and Urban Culture in China
HIST 1965A City as Modernity-Popular Culture, Mass Consumption, Urban Entertainment in Nineteenth-Century Paris
HIST 1967R History of Rio de Janeiro
HIST 1979J London: 1750 to the Present
HIST 1979L Urban History of Latin America
HIST 1980T Modernity, Jews, and Urban Identities in Central Europe (JUDS 1718)

IAPI 1700A Program Evaluation
IAPI 1803E Social Entrepreneurship
ITAL 1580 Word, Image and Power in Early Modern Italy
JAPN 0910B Japanese Cities: Tokyo and Kyoto
JUDS 1716 Modernity, Jews, and Urban Identities in Central Europe
POLS 1760 Infrastructure Policy
POLS 1824D Power and Prosperity in Urban America
RUSS 1440 Imagining Moscow: Utopia and Urban Spaces in 20th-Century Russian Culture
STS 1701Q The Fate of the Coast
SOC 0130 American Heritage: Democracy, Inequality, and Public Policy
SOC 1270 Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the Modern World
SOC 1540 Human Needs and Social Services

3. RISD courses approved by the Urban Studies Program each semester, as applicable to the Urban Studies concentration.
4. Any course taken at another university in the US or abroad and approved by the Urban Studies Program each semester (2 maximum)

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/NCS) 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.