

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): 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	Essential Statistics
APMA 1650	Statistical Inference I
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	
HIST 1551	American Urban History, 1870-1965 (HIST 1550::American Urban History to 1870)	
POLS 0220	City Politics	
POLS 1310	African American Politics	
SOC 1330	Remaking the City	
SOC 1340	Principles and Methods of Geographic Information Systems	
SOC 1640	Social Exclusion	
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) ²		3
AMST 1903E	City of the American Century: The Culture and Politics of Urbanism in Postwar New York City	
HIAA 1850H	Berlin: Architecture, Politics and Memory	
HIAA 1910A	Providence Architecture	
SOC 0310	Theory and Practice of Engaged Scholarship	
URBN 1870A	American Culture and the City	
URBN 1870D	Downtown Development	
URBN 1870G	Ancient Cities: From the Origins Through Late Antiquity	
URBN 1870I	The Changing American City	
URBN 1870J	The Politics of Community Organizing	
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 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
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
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	Local Food Systems and Urban Agriculture
HIAA 0550	Painters, Builders, and Bankers in Early Modern Italy
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)
IAPA 1700A	Program Evaluation
ITAL 1580	Word, Image and Power in Early Modern Italy
JAPN 0710	Japanese Cities: Tokyo and Kyoto
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. ³	
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/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.