

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) offers four degree programs: a Bachelor of Science in Planning; a two-year professional Master in City Planning (MCP); a one-year Master of Science in Urban Studies and Planning (reserved for mid-career students); and a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning. In addition, DUSP has other, nondegree programs and affiliations: the Special Program in Urban and Regional Studies (<https://dusp.mit.edu/visiting-fellows/#special-program-for-urban-and-regional-studies>) (for mid-career professionals from developing countries); the Community Innovators Lab (<https://www.colab.mit.edu>); the Center for Advanced Urbanism (<http://cau.mit.edu>); and the SENSEable City Lab (<http://senseable.mit.edu>). Once students are admitted and enrolled at MIT, it is possible to apply for certificate programs in urban design (offered jointly with the Department of Architecture) or environmental planning.

City and regional planners in the United States and other parts of the world are involved not only in physical and economic development, but also in management of the environmental, social, and design consequences of development. They engage in a variety of activities aimed at shaping the forms and patterns of human settlements, and at providing people with housing, public services, employment opportunities, and other crucial support systems that comprise a decent living environment. Planning encompasses not just a concern for the structure and experience of the built environment, but also a desire to harness the social, economic, political, and technological forces that give meaning to the everyday lives of men and women in residential, work, and recreational settings. Planners operate at the neighborhood, metropolitan, state, national, or international level, in both the public and the private sectors. Their tasks are the same: to help frame the issues and problems that receive attention; to formulate and implement projects, programs, and policies responsive to individual and group needs; and to work with and for various communities in allocating economic and physical resources most efficiently and most equitably.

Planners are often described as "generalists with a specialty." The specialties offered at MIT include city design and development; housing, community, and economic development; international development; and environmental policy and planning, as well as cross-cutting opportunities to study urban information systems, multi-regional systems, and mobility systems. These planning specialties can be distinguished by the geographic levels at which decision making takes place—neighborhood, city, regional, state, national, and global. Subspecialties have also been described in terms of the roles that planners are called upon to play, such as manager, designer, regulator, advocate, educator, evaluator, or futurist.

A focus on the development of practice-related skills is central to the department's mission, particularly for students in the

MCP professional degree program. Acquiring these skills and integrating them with classroom knowledge are advanced through the department's field-based practicum subjects and research, and through internship programs. In fieldwork, students acquire competence by engaging in practice and then bringing field experiences back into the academic setting for reflection and discussion. Students may work with community organizations, government agencies, or private firms under the direction of faculty members involved in field-based projects with outside clients. In some cases, stipends may be available for fieldwork or internship programs. The Department of Urban Studies and Planning is committed to educating planners who can advocate on behalf of underrepresented constituencies.

During the month of January, the department offers a series of "mini-subjects" in specialized fields not covered by the regular curriculum, including both noncredit and for-credit offerings.

Specific opportunities for concentration and specialization available to students are detailed in the descriptions of the degree programs that follow.

Undergraduate Study

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers a Bachelor of Science in Planning; HASS Minors in Urban Studies and Planning, International Development, and Public Policy; and a variety of HASS concentrations. There is also an accelerated SB/MCP program which allows exceptional students to complete their undergraduate and master's degree work in five years.

In addition, DUSP also hosts MIT's Teacher Education Program (TEP), described under Career and Professional Options (<https://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education/career/teacher-licensure-education>) in the Undergraduate Education section. TEP provides an option for students interested in exploring new ideas in teaching and learning as applied to K-12 schools. Studies in TEP can also lead to licensure in math or science teaching at the high school or middle school levels.

Bachelor of Science in Planning (Course 11)

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers an interdisciplinary preprofessional undergraduate major (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/planning-course-11>) designed to prepare students for careers in both the public and private sectors. The major also provides a foundation for students who are considering graduate work in law, public policy, international development, urban design, management, and planning. The subjects in the major teach students how the tools of economics, policy analysis, political science, and urban design can be used to solve social and environmental problems in the United States and abroad. In addition, students learn the skills and responsibilities of planners who seek to promote effective and equitable social change.

After satisfying the core requirements, students use their electives to pursue a specific track. We suggest one of the following, but will accept self-designed options to better meet a student's interest: urban and environmental policy and planning; urban society, history, and politics; or urban and regional public policy. The required laboratory emphasizes urban information systems and offers skills for measurement, representation, and analysis of urban phenomena. In the laboratory subject, students also explore the ways emerging technology can be used to improve government decision making.

Students are encouraged to develop a program that will strengthen their analytic skills, broaden their intellectual perspectives, and test these insights in real-world applications. Students must complete a senior project that synthesizes what they have learned. This project may consist of an analysis of a public policy issue, a report on a problem-solving experience from an internship or other field experience, or a synthesis of research on urban affairs.

Urban Science and Planning with Computer Science (Course 11-6)

Urban settlements and technology around the world are rapidly evolving as flows of population, finance, and politics are reshaping the very identity of cities and nations globally. We already see rapid and profound change, especially in mega-cities, including pervasive sensing, the growth and availability of continuous data streams, advanced analytics, interactive communications and social networks, and distributed intelligence. Examples of new technologies facilitated by or requiring big data and new informatics concentrated in urban areas include, but are not limited to, autonomous vehicles, sensor-enabled self-management of natural resources, cybersecurity for critical infrastructure biometric identity, the sharing or gig-economy, and continuous public engagement opportunities through social networks and data and visualization.

The Bachelor of Science in Urban Science and Planning with Computer Science (Course 11-6) (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/urban-science-planning-computer-science-11-6>) emphasizes the development of fundamental skills in urban planning and policy, including ethics and justice; statistics, data science, geospatial analysis, and visualization; and computer science, robotics, and machine learning. The Course 11-6 program provides numerous opportunities for field-based problem-solving experience through labs, UROP assignments and client-based courses in which students synthesize and empirically integrate what they are learning about theory and practice at the intersection of computer and urban science. Students also have the opportunity to specialize through the selection of a customized concentration of upper-level electives in data visualization, applied spatial analysis, design, and public policy. Students in the program are full members of both departments and of two schools, Architecture and Planning and Engineering.

Email for more information (duspinfo@mit.edu) or call 617-253-1933.

Five-Year SB-MCP Option

Undergraduate Course 11 majors may apply for admission to the department's Master in City Planning (MCP) program in their junior year. Students accepted into the five-year program receive both the Bachelor of Science and the MCP at the end of five years. Admission is intended for those undergraduates who have demonstrated exceptional performance in the major and show commitment to the field of city planning. Criteria for admission include the following:

- A strong academic record in Course 11 subjects
- Letters of reference from departmental faculty
- Practical experience in planning, which could be gained through internships, practicums, studios, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program experiences, summer jobs, etc.
- A mature and passionate interest for the field that warrants further study

Students can obtain more information on the five-year program from Sandra Wellford, undergraduate administrator, Room 7-346A, 617-253-9403.

Minor in Urban Studies and Planning

The six-subject Minor in Urban Studies and Planning offers students the opportunity to explore issues in urban studies and planning in some depth. Students initially take two Tier I subjects that establish the political, economic, and design contexts for local, urban, and regional decision making. In addition, students choose four Tier II elective subjects, which provide an opportunity to focus on urban and environmental policy issues or to study urban problems and institutions. Students are encouraged to craft a minor that reflects their own particular interests within the general parameters of the minor program requirements and in consultation with the minor advisor.

Requirements		
11.001[J]	Introduction to Urban Design and Development	12
11.002[J]	Making Public Policy	12
Electives		
Select four Course 11 elective subjects ¹		36-48
Total Units		60-72

¹ In consultation with the advisor, students can select from recommended concentrations described in the department's course maps or create their own stream tailored to a particular set of urban, policy, or planning concerns.

Minor in International Development

The HASS Minor in International Development aims to increase students' ability to understand, analyze, and tackle problems of global poverty and economic development in the developing world. Challenges include increasing urbanization; the need for industrial growth as well as jobs for an increasing number of educated youth;

the crisis of resources and infrastructure; the fragmentation of state capacity and rising violence; ethical and moral issues raised by development planning; the role of appropriate technology and research; and popular discontent. The minor emphasizes problem-solving, multidisciplinary, and an understanding of institutions at various levels—from the local to the global—as the keys to solving today’s problems in emerging countries.

The six-subject minor is structured into two tiers. The subjects in the first tier provide a general overview of the history of international development and major theories and debates in the field, and an introduction to the dilemmas of practice. They also introduce the challenges of applying models of interventions across contexts and the importance of understanding local institutional frameworks and political economies across scales and levels of governance.

Subjects in the second tier offer an array of more specialized and advanced subjects to allow students greater depth in specific sectors and international development issues such as public finance, infrastructure and energy, sustainability, the role of technology policy, the form and structure of cities, the politics of urban change and development, the role of law and public policy in development, and the rethinking of development in terms of human rights.

Tier I: Introduction to International Development Theories and Practice

Select two of the following:		24
11.005	Introduction to International Development	
11.025[J]	D-Lab: Development	
11.140	Urbanization and Development	

Tier II: Specialized Topics in International Development

Select four of the following (in consultation with the minor advisor):		42-48
11.002[J]	Making Public Policy	
11.027	City to City: Comparing, Researching, and Reflecting on Practice	
11.144	Project Appraisal in Developing Countries	
11.147	Budgeting and Finance for the Public Sector	
11.164[J]	Human Rights at Home and Abroad	
11.165	Urban Energy Systems and Policy	
11.166	Law, Social Movements, and Public Policy: Comparative and International Experience	
EC.715	D-Lab: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	

Total Units **66-72**

Additional subjects not listed above may be included in the minor at the discretion of the minor advisor.

Further information can be obtained from Professor Balakrishnan Rajagopal (braj@mit.edu), Room 9-432, 617-253-6315.

Minor in Public Policy

The interdisciplinary HASS Minor in Public Policy (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/public-policy>) is intended to provide a single framework for students interested in the role of public policy in the field of their technical expertise. Because the Course 11 major has a strong public policy element and several subjects are redundant, Course 11 majors are not eligible for the Minor in Public Policy.

HASS Concentrations

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers many HASS concentrations tailored to a wide variety of student needs and interests. Sample programs (<https://dusp.mit.edu/undergraduate/#hass-concentrations>) are available online and include: designing the urban environment, environmental policy, urban history, policy analysis and urban problems, legal issues and social change, and education.

Students can also create an individually designed HASS concentration that fits their particular interests while taking account of Institute guidelines. The department will assist students in selecting three HASS subjects that suit their concerns and background.

The DUSP concentration focusing on education can also lead to Massachusetts licensure in teaching math and science at the middle and high school levels. This requires taking:

Education Concentration Subjects

11.129[J]	Educational Theory and Practice I	12
11.130[J]	Educational Theory and Practice II	12
11.131[J]	Educational Theory and Practice III	12

Core Subjects

11.124[J]	Introduction to Education: Looking Forward and Looking Back on Education	12
11.125[J]	Introduction to Education: Understanding and Evaluating Education	12

More information is available from Eric Klopfer, Room E15-301, 617-253-2025.

Graduate Study

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers graduate work leading to the Master in City Planning and the Doctor of Philosophy. In conjunction with the Center for Real Estate, the department also offers a Master of Science in Real Estate Development. These programs are open to students from a variety of backgrounds. Urban

studies, city planning, architecture, urban design, environmental planning, political science, civil engineering, economics, sociology, geography, law, management, and public administration all offer suitable preparation. For further information concerning academic programs in the department, application for admission, and financial aid, contact Graduate Admissions, Room 9-413, 617-253-9403.

Master in City Planning

The principal professional degree in the planning field is the Master in City Planning (MCP). The Department of Urban Studies and Planning provides graduate education for men and women who will assume professional roles in public, private, and nonprofit agencies, firms, and international institutions, in the United States and abroad. The department seeks to provide MCP students with the skills and specialized knowledge needed to fill traditional as well as emerging planning roles. The MCP is accredited by the American Planning Association.

The two-year Master in City Planning degree program emphasizes mastery of tools for effective practice and is therefore distinct from undergraduate liberal arts programs in urban affairs or doctoral programs that emphasize advanced research skills. MCP graduates work in a broad array of roles, from "traditional" city planning to economic, social, and environmental planning, as well as urban design. In addition to its basic core requirements, the program offers four areas of specialization: City Design and Development; Environmental Policy and Planning; Housing, Community, and Economic Development; and International Development. MCP students, in their application to the department, select one of these areas of specialization and, when applicable, indicate interest in cross-cutting programs in transportation planning, urban information systems, and regional planning.

Each student's plan of study in the MCP Program is set forth in a program statement developed jointly by the student and faculty advisor during the student's first term. Linked to career development goals, the program statement describes the purposes and goals of study, the proposed schedule of subjects, the manner in which competence in a specialization is developed, and an indication of a possible thesis topic.

Degree Requirements

Students are expected to take a minimum of 36 credit units each term (at least three subjects, though more frequently four), yielding at least 126 total units, in addition to the thesis.

A collection of subjects and requirements to be taken during the student's two years in the MCP program constitute a "core experience" viewed as central to the professional program. The core subjects and requirements include the following:

11.200	Gateway: Urban Studies and Planning 1	12
11.201	Gateway: Urban Studies and Planning 2	12

11.202	Planning Economics	4
11.203	Microeconomics ¹	8
11.205	Introduction to Spatial Analysis and GIS ¹	6
11.220	Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods for Planning I ¹	12
11.222	Introduction to Critical Qualitative Methods ¹	6
11.328[J]	Urban Design Skills: Observing, Interpreting, and Representing the City ¹	8

At least one core practicum subject, selected from an approved list, during the two-year program

A thesis preparation seminar in the area of specialization, taken during the second or third term of study

¹ Students can test out of these subjects.

Students identified as having weaker writing skills are also encouraged to take a writing course.

All students are required to submit a thesis on a topic of their choice. The department encourages MCP students to avoid the traditional perception of the thesis as a "mini-dissertation," and to think instead of a client-oriented, professional document that bridges academic and professional concerns. While most of the thesis work occurs during the last term of the second year, students are urged to begin the process of defining a thesis topic early in the second year through their participation in a required thesis preparation seminar.

Students in the MCP Program are encouraged to integrate fieldwork and internships with academic coursework. The Department of Urban Studies and Planning provides a variety of individual and group field placements involving varying degrees of faculty participation and supervision. Academic credit is awarded for field experience, although some students choose instead to participate in the work-study financial aid program. The department also sponsors a variety of seminars in which students have an opportunity to reflect on their field experiences.

The **City Design and Development (CDD)** group engages, researches, and projects the physical planning of cities, regions, and their built and natural environments, at scales and locations that range from urban neighborhoods and city cores to outer suburbs. Graduates work in a variety of private, public, and nonprofit roles as urban designers, planning and design consultants, municipal and regional planners, managers of public agencies, advocates of historic and landscape preservation, housing, and land use regulations, real estate development, and as planners of transportation and mobility systems. CDD is closely associated with faculty and students in the Department of Architecture's Urbanism field, the Center for Advanced Urbanism, Center for Real Estate, SENSEable City Lab, and Media Lab. Many subjects are cross-listed with these groups. CDD's diverse

educational offerings, ranging from studios to seminars, lectures, and workshops, ensure that every student can develop unique competence and intellectual depth in the field. CDD students may also elect to pursue the Urban Design Certificate, for those who wish to be involved in shaping the physical form and logistical function of cities, or pursue an additional year of study through DUSP's SM in Advanced Urbanism. Individual faculty within CDD also work in areas that include landscape urbanism; resilient cities and housing; land use planning and regulation; innovation districts; parametric urbanism; and much more.

The Center for Advanced Urbanism—jointly administered by faculty from the CDD group and the Urbanism group in the Department of Architecture—is a research-based institution dedicated to implementing new collaborative models of design and urban research.

The **Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP)** group emphasizes the study of how society conserves and manages its natural resources and works to promote sustainable development. Areas of concern include the role of science in environmental policy-making, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable international development, adaptive ecosystem management, environmental justice, global environmental treaty making, environmental regulation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, the role of private corporations in environmental management, the public health impacts of environmental planning, infrastructure planning, and the mediation of environmental disputes. Students investigate the interactions between built and natural systems; the effectiveness of different approaches to environmental planning and policymaking; techniques for describing, modeling, forecasting, and evaluating changes in environmental quality; approaches to environmental policy analysis; strategies for stakeholder involvement in environmental planning; and mechanisms for assessing the choices posed by the environmental impacts of new technology in local, state, national, and international contexts.

The **Housing, Community, and Economic Development (HCED)** group focuses on the equitable development of communities in the United States, at the neighborhood, city, and regional scales. Its mission is to prepare professionals with the skills and knowledge to be responsible leaders of public, private, and nonprofit sector organizations and networks engaged in equitable development. The group is driven by a deep faculty commitment to expanding opportunity and improving quality of life for historically disadvantaged groups. HCED emphasizes ongoing, empowering partnerships with those affected by change—often those who are organizing to lead local improvement efforts. Many faculty and students also have an interest in global markets and federal and state policy. For decades, the group's faculty and students have helped shape policy, practice and research in housing, economic, workforce, and comprehensive community development. Increasingly, HCED connects to efforts that promote public health, environmental sustainability, and more inclusive “digital cities” as well. HCED promotes an integrated and dynamic

approach to learning, helping prepare students for careers as problem solvers who can perform in varied roles: policy analyst or policy maker, advocate and organizer, mediator, evaluator, program designer, investor and entrepreneur, project developer and manager. At the doctoral level, HCED prepares students not only to produce but also to shape the next generation of creative teaching and scholarship.

The **International Development Group (IDG)** draws on the experiences of developing and newly industrializing countries throughout the world as the basis for advice about planning at the local, regional, national, and global levels. IDG provides students with an integrated view of the institutional, legal, historical, economic, technological, and sociopolitical factors that have shaped successful planning experiences and how they translate into action. Class content and faculty expertise include economic development at various scales; human rights and rights-based approaches to development, ethical and moral issues raised by development planning, the challenge of planning amidst popular discontent; regional planning (including decentralization); finance and project evaluation; housing, human settlements, and infrastructure services (transportation, telecommunications, water, sanitation, sewerage); institutions of economic growth; law and economic development; industrialization and industrial policies (including privatization); poverty-reducing and employment-increasing interventions including informal sector, nongovernment organizations, and small enterprises; comparative urban and metropolitan politics and policy; property and land rights, comparative property and land use law, collective action, and common property issues (water, forestry, grazing, agriculture); human rights and development; conflict and social dynamics in cities; post-conflict development; and globalization and governance.

Urban Information Systems (UIS) is a cross-cutting group that connects faculty, staff, and students who are interested in the ways information and communication technologies impact urban planning. Research topics include building neighborhood information systems to facilitate public participation in planning; exploring the complex relationships underlying urban spatial structure, land use, transportation, and the environment; modeling urban futures and metropolitan growth scenarios; and experimenting with mobile computing, location-based services, and the community building, planning, and urban design implications of ubiquitous computing. Associated faculty are engaged in many related research projects through the SENSEable City Lab, the Civic Data Design Lab, the Urban Mobility Lab, the Center for Advanced Urbanism, and MIT-wide interdisciplinary research initiatives such as the Future Urban Mobility project in Singapore. Through seminars and related activities, we share experiences and find ways to collaborate on the technical, planning, and social science aspects of making information technology-enabled urban futures more responsive to public and private interests in ways that are transparent and equitable.

Much of UIS's work involves the development and use of planning-related software and the urban analytics, spatial analysis tools, and systems (such as GIS and distributed geoprocessing) that are increasingly important parts of urban planning methods and metropolitan information infrastructures. However, UIS interests go beyond the development and use of specific technologies and extend to an examination of the ripple effects of computing, communications, and digital spatial information on current planning practices and on the meaning and value of the impacted communities and planning institutions.

Simultaneous Master's Degrees in City Planning and Architecture

Students who have been admitted to either the Department of Urban Studies and Planning or the Department of Architecture can propose a program of joint work in the two fields that will lead to the simultaneous awarding of two degrees. Degree combinations may be MCP/MArch or MCP/SMArchS. A student must apply by the January deadline prior to beginning the last full year of graduate study for the first degree: MCP and SMArchS. SMArchS students must apply during their first year at MIT (by the end of the first term); MArch students must apply during or before their second year. Students are first approved by the Dual Degree Committee and then considered during the spring admissions process. All candidates for simultaneous degrees must meet the requirements of both degrees, but may submit a joint thesis.

Simultaneous Master's Degrees in City Planning and Transportation

Students who have been admitted to study for the Master in City Planning or the Master of Science in Transportation may apply to the other program during their first year of study and propose a program of joint work in the two fields that will lead to the simultaneous awarding of two degrees. Details of this program are provided under Interdepartmental Programs in the Civil and Environmental Engineering section.

Simultaneous Master's Degrees in City Planning and Real Estate Development

Students who have been admitted to the Master in City Planning Program or the Master of Science in Real Estate Development Program may apply to the other program during their first year of study and propose a program of joint work in the two fields that will lead to the simultaneous awarding of two degrees. Students may submit a joint thesis.

Master of Science in Urban Studies and Planning

Under special circumstances, admission may be granted to candidates seeking a one-year Master of Science (SM) degree. The SM is intended for professionals with a number of years of distinguished practice in city planning or related fields who have a clear idea of the courses they want to take at MIT, the thesis they want to write, and the DUSP faculty member with whom they wish to work. That faculty member must be prepared to advise the candidate when at MIT and to submit a letter of recommendation so indicating

as part of the candidate's application. This process means that prior to submitting an application the candidate must contact the appropriate DUSP faculty member to establish such a relationship. The SM does not require the candidate to take the core courses, which are mandatory for MCP candidates. As indicated above, a thesis is required. For further information concerning the SM option, contact Graduate Admissions, Room 7-346, 617-253-9403.

Doctor of Philosophy

The PhD is the advanced research degree in urban planning or urban studies. Admission requirements are substantially the same as for the master's degree, but additional emphasis is placed on academic preparation, professional experience, and the fit between the student's research interests and the department's research activities. Nearly all successful applicants have previously completed a master's degree.

The doctoral program emphasizes the development of research competence and the application of research methods to exploring critical planning questions. Students work under the mentorship of a faculty advisor. They may focus their studies on any subfield of planning in which the faculty in the department have expertise.

After successful completion of coursework, students are required to take oral and written qualifying general exams in two fields: an intellectual discipline (city design and development, international development, public policy, urban information systems, regional and urban economics, or urban sociology) and a field to which this discipline is applied and that coincides with the student's research interest and possible dissertation topic. Doctoral candidates are expected to complete the qualifying general examinations before beginning their third year of residence. Upon completing the qualifying general examination and a colloquium about the dissertation proposal, a PhD candidate must write and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation that gives evidence of the capacity to do independent and innovative research.

A minimum of 72 units plus 36 units for the dissertation (a minimum of 108 units) is required for the PhD degree.

Interested and qualified students can undertake joint doctoral programs with the Department of Political Science or the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Advanced Urbanism Concentration

The Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism (LCAU), together with the Department of Architecture and MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, have established a collaborative doctoral-level concentration in advanced urbanism. At MIT, advanced urbanism is the field that integrates research on urban design, urbanization, and urban culture. The doctoral concentration in advanced urbanism is intended for those who have at least one professional design degree (in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, etc.). A successful applicant will have research interests in urbanism that align with faculty research in both DUSP

and Architecture. In this spirit, the student's dissertation committee is expected to include faculty from both departments. More broadly, an advanced urbanism doctoral student is expected to engage with the research community at the LCAU and within their home department throughout their time at MIT.

Admissions applications for the DUSP side of this program are submitted directly through the department's regular PhD admissions process. Those interested in being considered for an Advanced Urbanism doctoral fellowship should indicate this in their applications. In the process of application review, the DUSP PhD admissions committee will identify strong applicants who fit the advanced urbanism program profile and nominate them for further consideration by a joint advanced urbanism admissions committee. The applicant selected by this joint committee would, in turn, be admitted as part of the regular DUSP PhD admissions process. Upon arrival at MIT, students holding the advanced urbanism doctoral fellowship through DUSP will be expected to complete all DUSP doctoral degree requirements plus additional requirements for the advanced urbanism concentration. Tuition support and research assistantships are provided by LCAU. Additional details can be found on the LCAU website (<http://lcau.mit.edu/center/education>).

Interdisciplinary Programs

Graduate Programs in Transportation

MIT provides a broad range of opportunities for transportation-related education. Courses and classes span the School of Engineering, the Sloan School of Management, and the School of Architecture and Planning, with many activities covering interdisciplinary topics that prepare students for future industry, government, or academic careers.

A variety of graduate degrees are available to students interested in transportation studies and research, including a Master of Science in Transportation and PhD in Transportation (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/graduate-programs/transportation>), described under Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs.

Environmental Planning Certificate

Students in the MCP and PhD program who complete a prescribed set of subjects are awarded a Certificate in Environmental Planning.

Urban Design Certificate

Students in the MCP, MArch, or SMArchS programs who complete a specific curriculum of subjects in history and theory, public policy, development, studios and workshops, and a thesis in the field of urban design are awarded a Certificate in Urban Design by the School of Architecture and Planning.

Nondegree Programs

A limited number of nondegree students are admitted to the department each term. This special student status is especially

designed for professionals interested in developing specialized skills, but is also available to others.

The **MIT Community Innovators Lab (CoLab)** supports faculty and students to work with low-income and excluded people in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, tapping their energy, creativity, and in-depth knowledge of the issues they face to tackle poverty, climate change, and mass urbanization. Launched in 2007, CoLab supports faculty and student collaboration on field-based projects working with departments, laboratories, and centers across the Institute on action research while providing important resources to community leaders.

CoLab offers instruction and tools—practice-based classes, study groups, tutoring, coaching, mentoring, as well as IAP courses in reflective practice, civic engagement, action research, use of social media, storytelling, and visual mapping—to help students embed and apply technical learning in real societal contexts, equipping them with the resources they will need to take leadership roles in an increasingly complex world. Its dense network of innovative practitioners in the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean augment faculty instruction with field-based coaching, helping to train the next generation of practitioners and scholars committed to addressing social exclusion and sustainability—two of the greatest global challenges of our time.

In addition to work in communities, CoLab hosts regular programs that bring nationally recognized leaders to share their work and help inform the Institute's research agenda. The Mel King Community Fellows Program convenes an annual cohort of advanced practitioners from a range of relevant fields who are grappling with challenges of equitable and sustainable development. CoLab also provides community and industry leaders with private deliberative space in which they can explore emerging issues while allowing students up-close opportunities to participate in collaborative brainstorming sessions. Along with CoLab workshops, CoLab Radio (the center's blog) and online programming, roundtables, speaker series, and lunchtime talks, these activities enliven and enrich the Institute's intellectual community by infusing it with a powerful diversity of voices and insights.

CoLab is located in Room 9-419. Further information can be found on the CoLab website (<http://colab.mit.edu>) and CoLab blog (<http://colabradio.mit.edu>).

The **Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS)** is a one-year program designed for mid-career professionals from developing and newly industrializing countries. SPURS was founded in 1967 as part of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP), which has a long-standing commitment to bringing outstanding individuals to MIT to reflect on their professional practice in the field of international development. The program is designed to nurture individuals, often at a turning point in their professional careers, to retool and reflect on their policy-making and planning skills. SPURS Fellows return to their countries with

a better understanding of the complex set of relationships among local, regional, and international issues. SPURS has hosted over 676 women and men from more than 117 countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern and Central Europe. SPURS alumni/ae hold senior level positions in both the public and private sectors in their countries.

For further information contact Nimfa de Leon, Room 9-435, 617-253-5915 or visit the SPURS website (<http://web.mit.edu/spurs/www>).

Inquiries

For further information concerning academic programs in the department, application for admission, and financial aid, contact Graduate Admissions, Room 9-413, 617-253-9403.

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Ford Professor in Urban Studies
Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning

J. Phillip Thompson, PhD
Professor of Political Science and Urban Planning

Lawrence Vale, DPhil
Ford International Professor in Urban Studies
Professor of Urban Design and Planning

Jinhua Zhao, PhD
Professor of Urban Planning and Transportation
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Member, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society

Siqi Zheng, PhD
Samuel Tak Lee Professor
Professor of Urban and Real Estate Sustainability

Associate Professors

Devin Michelle Buntin, PhD
Associate Professor of Urban Economics and Housing
(On leave)

Gabriella Carolini, PhD
Associate Professor of International Development and Urban
Planning

Catherine D'Ignazio, PhD
Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning

David Hsu, PhD
Associate Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning
(On leave, fall)

Jason Jackson, PhD
Associate Professor of Political Economy and Urban Planning
(On leave)

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, SJD
Associate Professor of Law and Development

Albert Saiz, PhD
Daniel Rose Professor
Associate Professor of Urban Economics and Real Estate

Andres Sevtsuk, PhD
Charles and Ann Spaulding Career Development Professor
Associate Professor of Urban Science and Planning

Justin Steil, JD, PhD
Associate Professor of Law and Urban Planning

Sarah E. Williams, MCP
Norman B. and Muriel Leventhal Professor
Associate Professor of Information Technologies and Urban Planning
Member, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society

Assistant Professors

Karilyn Crockett, PhD
Ford Career Development Professor
Assistant Professor of History and Urban Planning

Delia Wendel, PhD
Charles and Ann Spaulding Career Development Professor
Assistant Professor of International Development and Urban
Planning

Professors of the Practice

Ceasar L. McDowell, EdD
Professor of the Practice of Civic Design

Carlo Ratti, PhD
Professor of the Practice of Urban Technologies

Elisabeth Reynolds, PhD
Professor of the Practice of Urban Studies and Planning

Associate Professors of the Practice

Holly Harriel, EdD
Associate Professor of the Practice of Urban Studies and Planning

Jeffrey Levine, MS
Associate Professor of the Practice of Economic Development and
Planning

Mary Anne Ocampo, MArch
Associate Professor of the Practice of Urban Design and Planning

Kairos Shen, MS
Associate Professor of the Practice of Urban Design and Planning

Senior Lecturers

Joseph F. Coughlin, PhD
Senior Lecturer in Urban Studies and Planning

Walter N. Torous, PhD
Senior Lecturer in Real Estate

Lecturers

Cherie Abbanat, MCP
Lecturer of International Development and Urban Studies

Sarah Abrams, MS
Lecturer of Real Estate

James Aloisi, MA, JD
Lecturer in Urban Studies and Planning

Garnette Cadogan, BA
Tunney Lee Distinguished Lecturer

Jennifer Cookke, MS, MBA
Lecturer of Real Estate

Mary Jane Daly, MCP
Lecturer in Urban Studies and Planning

Ezra Glenn, MA
Lecturer in Urban Studies and Planning

Christopher Gordon, MS
Lecturer of Real Estate

Eric Huntley, PhD
Lecturer of GIS, Data Visualization and Graphics

John Kennedy, MS
Lecturer of Real Estate

W. Tod McGrath, MBA
Lecturer of Real Estate

Julie Newman, PhD
Lecturer of Environmental Planning and Sustainability

Peter Roth, MS, MArch
Lecturer of Real Estate

Gloria Schuck, PhD
Lecturer of Real Estate

Yanni Tsipis, MS
Lecturer of Real Estate

Bruno Verdini Trejo, PhD
Lecturer of Urban Planning and Negotiation

Visiting Lecturers

Kate Mytty, MCP
Visiting Lecturer of Real Estate

Professors Emeriti

Lawrence Bacow, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning

Robert M. Fogelson, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies
Professor Emeritus of History

Dennis M. Frenchman, MArch, MCP
Professor Emeritus of Urban Design and Planning

Ralph Gakenheimer, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning

David M. Geltner, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Real Estate Finance

Gary A. Hack, MArch, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Urban Design

Langley C. Keyes Jr, PhD
Ford International Professor Emeritus
Professor Emeritus of City and Regional Planning

Frank Levy, PhD
Daniel Rose Professor Emeritus
Professor Emeritus of Urban Economics

Gary Marx, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Sociology

Paul Osterman, PhD
Nanyang Technological University Professor Emeritus
Professor Emeritus of Human Resources and Management
Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies and Planning

Karen R. Polenske, PhD
Professor Emerita of Regional Political Economy and Planning

Adèle Naudé Santos, MArch, MCP, MAUD
Professor Emerita of Architecture
Professor Emerita of Urban Planning

James Wescoat, PhD
Aga Khan Professor Emeritus
Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies and Planning

William C. Wheaton, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies and Planning
Professor Emeritus of Economics

Clarence G. Williams, PhD
Adjunct Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies and Planning

Introductory Subjects

11.001[J] Introduction to Urban Design and Development

Same subject as 4.250[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines the evolving structure of cities and the way that cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas can be designed and developed. Surveys the ideas of a wide range of people who have addressed urban problems. Stresses the connection between values and design. Demonstrates how physical, social, political and economic forces interact to shape and reshape cities over time. Introduces links between urban design and urban science.

L. Vale (fall); A. Sevtsuk (spring)

11.002[J] Making Public Policy

Same subject as 17.30[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

4-0-8 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Examines how the struggle among competing advocates shapes the outputs of government. Considers how conditions become problems for government to solve, why some political arguments are more persuasive than others, why some policy tools are preferred over others, and whether policies achieve their goals. Investigates the interactions among elected officials, think tanks, interest groups, the media, and the public in controversies over global warming, urban sprawl, Social Security, health care, education, and other issues.

Staff

11.003[J] Methods of Policy Analysis

Same subject as 17.303[J]

Prereq: 11.002[J]; Coreq: 14.01

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides students with an introduction to public policy analysis. Examines various approaches to policy analysis by considering the concepts, tools, and methods used in economics, political science, and other disciplines. Students apply and critique these approaches through case studies of current public policy problems.

C. Abbanat

11.004[J] People and the Planet: Environmental Histories and Engineering

Same subject as STS.033[J]

Subject meets with 11.204[J], IDS.524[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-3-6 units. HASS-E

Explores historical and cultural aspects of complex environmental problems and engineering approaches to sustainable solutions. Introduces quantitative analyses and methodological tools to understand environmental issues that have human and natural components. Demonstrates concepts through a series of historical and cultural analyses of environmental challenges and their engineering responses. Builds writing, quantitative modeling, and analytical skills in assessing environmental systems problems and developing engineering solutions. Through environmental data gathering and analysis, students engage with the challenges and possibilities of engineering in complex, interacting systems, and investigate plausible, symbiotic, systems-oriented solutions. Students taking graduate version complete additional analysis of reading assignments and a more in-depth and longer final paper.

A. Slocum, R. Scheffler, J. Trancik

11.005 Introduction to International Development

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduces the political economy of international economic development planning, using an applied, quantitative approach. Considers why some countries are able to develop faster than others. Presents major theories and models of development and underdevelopment, providing tools to understand the mechanisms and processes behind economic growth and broader notions of progress. Offers an alternative view of development, focusing on the persistence of dichotomies in current theory and practice. Using specific cases, explores how different combinations of actors and institutions at various scales may promote or inhibit economic development. Students re-examine conventional knowledge and engage critically with the assumptions behind current thinking and policy.

Staff

11.006 Poverty and Economic Security

Subject meets with 11.206

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Explores the evolution of poverty and economic security in the US within a global context. Examines the impacts of recent economic restructuring and globalization. Reviews current debates about the fate of the middle class, sources of increasing inequality, and approaches to advancing economic opportunity and security. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Glasmeier

11.007 Urban and Environmental Technology Implementation Lab

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

2-2-8 units

Real-world clients and environmental problems form the basis of a project in which teams of students develop strategies for analysis and implementation of new sensor technology within cities. Working closely with a partner or client based on the MIT campus or in Cambridge, students assess the environmental problem, implement prototypes, and recommend promising solutions to the client for implementation. Equipment and working space provided. Limited to 12.

D. Hsu

11.008 Undergraduate Planning Seminar

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

2-0-4 units

Can be repeated for credit.

A weekly seminar that includes discussions on topics in cities and urban planning, including guest lectures from DUSP faculty and practicing planners. Topics include urban science, zoning, architecture and urban design, urban sociology, politics and public policy, transportation and mobility, democratic governance, civil rights and social justice, urban economics, affordable housing, environmental policy and planning, real estate and economic development, agriculture and food policy, public health, and international development. Weekly student presentations on local planning issues and current events; occasional walking tours or arranged field trips. May be repeated for credit. Enrollment may be limited; preference to Course 11 and 11-6 sophomores and juniors.

E. Glenn

11.011 The Art and Science of Negotiation

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduction to negotiation theory and practice. Applications in government, business, and nonprofit settings are examined. Combines a "hands-on" personal skill-building orientation with a look at pertinent tactical and strategic foundations. Preparation insights, persuasion tools, ethical benchmarks, and institutional influences are examined as they shape our ability to analyze problems, negotiate agreements, and resolve disputes in social, organizational, and political circumstances characterized by interdependent interests. Enrollment limited by lottery; consult class website for information and deadlines.

B. Verdini

11.013[J] American Urban History

Same subject as 21H.217[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

2-0-7 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Seminar on the history of institutions and institutional change in American cities from roughly 1850 to the present. Among the institutions to be looked at are political machines, police departments, courts, schools, prisons, public authorities, and universities. Focuses on readings and discussions.

E. Glenn

11.014[J] History of the Built Environment in the US

Same subject as 21H.218[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Seminar on the history of selected features of the physical environment of urban America. Among the features considered are parks, cemeteries, tenements, suburbs, zoos, skyscrapers, department stores, supermarkets, and amusement parks.

R. M. Fogelson

11.015[J] Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History

Same subject as 21H.226[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

See description under subject 21H.226[J].

A. Pope

11.016[J] The Once and Future City

Same subject as 4.211[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Examines the evolving structure of cities, the dynamic processes that shape them, and the significance of a city's history for its future development. Develops the ability to read urban form as an interplay of natural processes and human purposes over time. Field assignments in Boston provide the opportunity to use, develop, and refine these concepts. Enrollment limited.

A. Spirn

11.021[J] Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Prevention and Control

Same subject as 1.801[J], 17.393[J], IDS.060[J]

Subject meets with 1.811[J], 11.630[J], 15.663[J], IDS.540[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Analyzes federal and state regulation of air and water pollution, hazardous waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and production/use of toxic chemicals. Analyzes pollution/climate change as economic problems and failure of markets. Explores the role of science and economics in legal decisions. Emphasizes use of legal mechanisms and alternative approaches (i.e., economic incentives, voluntary approaches) to control pollution and encourage chemical accident and pollution prevention. Focuses on major federal legislation, underlying administrative system, and common law in analyzing environmental policy, economic consequences, and role of the courts. Discusses classical pollutants and toxic industrial chemicals, greenhouse gas emissions, community right-to-know, and environmental justice. Develops basic legal skills: how to read/understand cases, regulations, and statutes. Students taking graduate version explore the subject in greater depth.

N. Ashford, C. Caldart

11.022[J] Regulation of Chemicals, Radiation, and Biotechnology

Same subject as 1.802[J], IDS.061[J]

Subject meets with 1.812[J], 10.805[J], 11.631[J], IDS.436[J], IDS.541[J]

Prereq: IDS.060[J] or permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Focuses on policy design and evaluation in the regulation of hazardous substances and processes. Includes risk assessment, industrial chemicals, pesticides, food contaminants, pharmaceuticals, radiation and radioactive wastes, product safety, workplace hazards, indoor air pollution, biotechnology, victims' compensation, and administrative law. Health and economic consequences of regulation, as well as its potential to spur technological change, are discussed for each regulatory regime. Students taking the graduate version are expected to explore the subject in greater depth.

N. Ashford, C. Caldart

11.024 Modeling Pedestrian Activity in Cities

Subject meets with 11.324

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Investigates the interaction between pedestrian activity, urban form, and land-use patterns in relatively dense urban environments. Informed by recent literature on pedestrian mobility, behavior, and biases, subject takes a practical approach, using software tools and analysis methods to operationalize and model pedestrian activity. Uses simplified yet powerful and scalable network analysis methods that focus uniquely on pedestrians, rather than engaging in comprehensive travel demand modeling across all modes.

Emphasizes not only modeling or predicting pedestrian activity in given built settings, but also analyzing and understanding how changes in the built environment — land use changes, density changes, and connectivity changes — can affect pedestrian activity. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Sevtsuk

11.025[J] D-Lab: Development

Same subject as EC.701[J]

Subject meets with 11.472[J], EC.781[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-2-7 units. HASS-S

See description under subject EC.701[J]. Enrollment limited by lottery; must attend first class session.

S. L. Hsu, B. Sanyal

11.026[J] Downtown

Same subject as 21H.321[J]

Subject meets with 11.339

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21H.321[J].

R. M. Fogelson

11.027 City to City: Comparing, Researching, and Reflecting on Practice

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: U (Spring)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduces students to practice through researching, writing, and working for and with nonprofits. Students work directly with nonprofits and community partners to help find solutions to real world problems; interview planners and other field experts, and write and present findings to nonprofit partners and community audiences.

C. Abbanat

11.029[J] Mobility Ventures: Driving Innovation in Transportation Systems

Same subject as 15.3791[J]

Subject meets with 11.529[J], 15.379[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-3-6 units

Explores technological, behavioral, policy, and systems-wide frameworks for innovation in transportation systems, complemented with case studies across the mobility spectrum, from autonomous vehicles to urban air mobility to last-mile sidewalk robots. Students interact with a series of guest lecturers from CEOs and other business and government executives who are actively reshaping the future of mobility. Interdisciplinary teams of students collaborate to deliver business plans for proposed mobility-focused startups with an emphasis on primary market research. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Preference to juniors and seniors.

J. Zhao, J. Moavenzadeh, J. Larios Berlin

11.041 Introduction to Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Subject meets with 11.401

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides a critical introduction to the shape and determinants of political, social, and economic inequality in America, with a focus on racial and economic justice. Explores the role of the city in visions of justice. Analyzes the historical, political, and institutional contexts of housing and community development policy in the US, including federalism, municipal fragmentation, and decentralized public financing. Introduces major dimensions in US housing policy, such as housing finance, public housing policy, and state and local housing affordability mechanisms. Reviews major themes in community economic development, including drivers of economic inequality, small business policy, employment policy, and cooperative economics. Expectations and evaluation criteria differ for students taking graduate version.

J. Steil

11.045[J] Power: Interpersonal, Organizational, and Global Dimensions

Same subject as 15.302[J], 17.045[J], 21A.127[J]

Subject meets with 21A.129

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21A.127[J].

S. Silbey

11.067 Land Use Law and Politics: Race, Place, and Law

Subject meets with 11.367

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Explores conceptions of spatial justice and introduces students to basic principles of US law and legal analysis, focused on property, land use, equal protection, civil rights, fair housing, and local government law, in order to examine who should control how land is used. Examines the rights of owners of land and the types of regulatory and market-based tools that are available to control land use, and discusses why and when government regulation, rather than private market ordering, might be necessary to control land use patterns. Explores basic principles of civil rights and anti-discrimination law and focuses on particular civil rights problems associated with the land use regulatory system, such as exclusionary zoning, residential segregation, the fair distribution of undesirable land uses, and gentrification. Introduces basic skills of statutory drafting and interpretation. Assignments differ for those taking the graduate version.

J. Steil

11.074 Cybersecurity Clinic

Subject meets with 11.274

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

2-4-6 units. REST

Provides an opportunity for MIT students to become certified in methods of assessing the vulnerability of public agencies (particularly agencies that manage critical urban infrastructure) to the risk of cyberattack. Certification involves completing an 8-hour, self-paced, online set of four modules during the first four weeks of the semester followed by a competency exam. Students who successfully complete the exam become certified. The certified students work in teams with client agencies in various cities around the United States. Through preparatory interactions with the agencies, and short on-site visits, teams prepare vulnerability assessments that client agencies can use to secure the technical assistance and financial support they need to manage the risks of cyberattack they are facing. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15.

L. Susskind

11.092 Renewable Energy Facility Siting Clinic

Subject meets with 11.592

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

2-4-6 units

Presents methods for resolving facility siting disputes, particularly those involving renewable energy. After completing four modules and a competency exam for MITx certification, students work in teams to help client communities in various cities around the United States. Through direct interactions with the proponents and opponents of facilities subject to local opposition, students complete a stakeholder assessment and offer joint fact-finding and collaborative problem-solving assistance. The political, legal, financial, and regulatory aspects of facility siting, particularly for renewable energy, are reviewed along with key infrastructure planning principles. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15.

L. Susskind

Specialized Subjects**11.100 Introduction to Computational Thinking in Cities**

Prereq: None. *Coreq: 6.100B*

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

1-0-2 units

Highlights how computer science may inform and impact how cities are conceptualized, planned, designed, regulated, and managed. The first half of the class explores the history of computational approaches in urban planning between around 1950 and 2020. The second half attempts to connect the data science concepts learned in 6.100B to topics in city planning and design. Subject can count toward the 6-unit discovery-focused credit limit for first-year students.

A. Sevtsuk

11.107 Economic Development Planning and Policy

Subject meets with 11.407

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduces tools and techniques in economic development planning. Extensive use of data collection, analysis, and display techniques. Students build interpretive intuition skills through user experience design activities and develop a series of memos summarizing the results of their data analysis. These are aggregated into a final report, and include the tools developed over the semester. Students taking graduate version complete modified assignments focused on developing computer applications.

A. Glasmeier

11.111[J] Leadership in Negotiation: Advanced Applications

Same subject as 17.381[J]

Prereq: 11.011 or permission of instructor

U (Fall)

4-0-8 units. HASS-S

Building on the skills and strategies honed in 11.011, explores advanced negotiation practice. Emphasizes an experiential skill-building approach, underpinned by cutting-edge cases and innovative research. Examines applications in high-stakes management, public policy, social entrepreneurship, international diplomacy, and scientific discovery. Strengthens collaborative decision-making, persuasion, and leadership skills by negotiating across different media and through personalized coaching, enhancing students' ability to proactively engage stakeholders, transform organizations, and inspire communities. Limited by lottery; consult class website for information and deadlines.

B. Verdini

11.113 The Economic Approach to Cities and Environmental Sustainability

Subject meets with 11.413

Prereq: 1.010, 14.30, 18.650[J], or permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Can be repeated for credit.

Provides a systematic framework of the interplay (both tension and synergy) between urbanization and environmental sustainability from a global perspective. Enhances analytical reasoning and quantitative skills to assist evidence-based empirical study and policy design evaluation. Explores the causes and consequences of urban environmental quality dynamics, and provides econometric tools to quantify such relationships. Examines state-of-the-art research in this field by introducing empirical studies from both developing and developed countries (highlighting fast urbanization). Themes include urban production, households, transportation and form, as well as political economy and climate resilience. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

S. Zheng

11.119 NEET Seminar: Digital Cities

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

1-0-2 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Seminar for students enrolled in the Digital Cities NEET thread. Focuses on topics around clean energy and sustainability in cities via guest lectures and research discussions.

C. Cong

11.122[J] Law, Technology, and Public Policy

Same subject as IDS.066[J]

Subject meets with 11.422[J], 15.655[J], IDS.435[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject IDS.066[J].

N. Ashford, C. Caldart

11.123 Big Plans and Mega-Urban Landscapes

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-6 units. HASS-S

Explores the physical, ecological, technological, political, economic and cultural implications of big plans and mega-urban landscapes in a global context. Uses local and international case studies to understand the process of making major changes to urban landscape and city fabric, and to regional landscape systems. Includes lectures by leading practitioners. Assignments consider planning and design strategies across multiple scales and time frames.

*A. Berger***11.124[J] Introduction to Education: Looking Forward and Looking Back on Education**

Same subject as CMS.586[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-6-3 units. HASS-S; CI-H

See description under subject CMS.586[J]. Limited to 25.

*E. Klopfer***11.125[J] Introduction to Education: Understanding and Evaluating Education**

Same subject as CMS.587[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-6-3 units. HASS-S; CI-H

See description under subject CMS.587[J]. Limited to 25.

*E. Klopfer***11.127[J] Design and Development of Games for Learning**

Same subject as CMS.590[J]

Subject meets with 11.252[J], CMS.863[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-6-3 units. HASS-H

See description under subject CMS.590[J].

*E. Klopfer***11.129[J] Educational Theory and Practice I**

Same subject as CMS.591[J]

Prereq: None. Coreq: CMS.586[J]

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject CMS.591[J]. Limited to 15; preference to juniors and seniors.

*G. Schwanbeck***11.130[J] Educational Theory and Practice II**

Same subject as CMS.592[J]

Prereq: CMS.591[J]

U (IAP)

3-0-9 units

See description under subject CMS.592[J].

*G. Schwanbeck***11.131[J] Educational Theory and Practice III**

Same subject as CMS.593[J]

Prereq: CMS.592[J]

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject CMS.593[J].

*G. Schwanbeck***11.133[J] Dilemmas in Biomedical Ethics: Playing God or Doing Good?**

Same subject as 21A.302[J], WGS.271[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

An introduction to the cross-cultural study of biomedical ethics. Examines moral foundations of the science and practice of western biomedicine through case studies of abortion, contraception, cloning, organ transplantation and other issues. Evaluates challenges that new medical technologies pose to the practice and availability of medical services around the globe, and to cross-cultural ideas of kinship and personhood. Discusses critiques of the biomedical tradition from anthropological, feminist, legal, religious, and cross-cultural theorists.

*E. C. James***11.134[J] Infections and Inequalities: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Global Health**

Same subject as HST.431[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines case studies in infectious disease outbreaks to demonstrate how human health is a product of multiple determinants, such as biology, sociocultural and historical factors, politics, economic processes, and the environment. Analyzes how structural inequalities render certain populations vulnerable to illness and explores the moral and ethical dimensions of public health and clinical interventions to promote health. Limited to 25.

E. James, A. Chakraborty

11.135 Violence, Human Rights, and Justice

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

An examination of the problem of mass violence and oppression in the contemporary world, and of the concept of human rights as a defense against such abuse. Explores questions of cultural relativism, race, gender and ethnicity. Examines case studies from war crimes tribunals, truth commissions, anti-terrorist policies and other judicial attempts to redress state-sponsored wrongs. Considers whether the human rights framework effectively promotes the rule of law in modern societies. Students debate moral positions and address ideas of moral relativism.

E. C. James

11.136 Global Mental Health

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Provides skills to critically analyze issues of mental health in historical and cross-cultural contexts. Studies mental illness as a complex biopsychosocial experience embedded in particular political and economic frameworks. Examines the relationships among culture, gender, embodiment, and emotional distress; power inequalities and ideas of the "normal" and "abnormal;" and how such conceptions influence care-giving practices, whether in traditional or biomedical contexts. Evaluates how the disciplines of psychology, psychoanalysis, and psychiatry have developed in the West, and considers their influence on mental health interventions in global settings. Limited to 25.

E. James

11.137 Financing Economic Development and Housing

Subject meets with 11.437

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

4-0-8 units

Studies financing tools and program models to support and promote local economic development and housing. Overview of public and private capital markets and financing sources helps illustrate market imperfections that constrain economic and housing development and increase race and class disparities. Explores federal housing and economic development programs as well as state and local public finance tools. Covers policies and program models. Investigates public finance practice to better understand how these finance programs affect other municipal operations. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 25.

J. Levine

11.138 Crowd Sourced City: Civic Tech Prototyping

Subject meets with 11.458

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Investigates the use of social media and digital technologies for planning and advocacy by working with actual planning and advocacy organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate prototype digital tools. Students use the development of their digital tools as a way to investigate new media technologies that can be used for planning. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

S. Williams, C. D'Ignazio

11.139 The City in Film

Subject meets with 11.239

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

2-2-5 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Surveys important developments in urbanism from 1900 to the present, using film as a lens to explore and interpret aspects of the urban experience in the US and abroad. Topics include industrialization, demographics, diversity, the environment, and the relationship between the community and the individual. Films vary from year to year but always include a balance of classics from the history of film, an occasional experimental/avant-garde film, and a number of more recent, mainstream movies. Students taking undergraduate version complete writing assignments that focus on observation, analysis, and the essay, and give an oral presentation. Limited to 18.

E. Glenn

11.140 Urbanization and Development

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines developmental dynamics of rapidly urbanizing locales, with a special focus on the developing world. Case studies from India, China, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa form the basis for discussion of social, spatial, political and economic changes in cities spurred by the decline of industry, the rise of services, and the proliferation of urban mega projects. Emphasizes the challenges of growing urban inequality, environmental risk, citizen displacement, insufficient housing, and the lack of effective institutions for metropolitan governance.

Staff

11.142 Geography of the Global Economy

Subject meets with 11.442

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Analyzes implications of economic globalization for communities, regions, international businesses and economic development organizations. Uses spatial analysis techniques to model the role of energy resources in shaping international political economy. Investigates key drivers of human, physical, and social capital flows and their roles in modern human settlement systems. Surveys contemporary models of industrialization and places them in geographic context. Connects forces of change with their implications for the distribution of wealth and human well-being. Looks backward to understand pre-Covid conditions and then returns to the present to understand how a global pandemic changes the world. Class relies on current literature and explorations of sectors. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Glasmeier

11.143 Research Methods in Global Health and Development

Subject meets with 11.243

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

3-3-6 units. HASS-S

Provides training for students to critically analyze the relationship between "health" and "development." Draws upon the theory and methods of medical anthropology, social medicine, public health, and development to track how culture, history, and political economy influence health and disease in global communities. Students work in teams to formulate research questions, and collect and analyze qualitative data in clinical and community settings in the greater Boston area, in order to design effective development interventions aimed at reducing health disparities in the US and abroad. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

E. C. James

11.144 Project Appraisal in Developing Countries

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Covers techniques of financial analysis of investment expenditures, as well as the economic and distributive appraisal of development projects. Critical analysis of these tools in the political economy of international development is discussed. Topics include appraisal's role in the project cycle, planning under conditions of uncertainty, constraints in data quality and the limits of rational analysis, and the coordination of an interdisciplinary appraisal team. Enrollment limited; preference to majors.

Y. Hong

11.145 International Housing Economics and Finance

Prereq: 14.01

U (Spring)

3-0-6 units

Credit cannot also be received for 11.355

Presents a theory of comparative differences in international housing outcomes. Introduces institutional differences in the ways housing expenditures are financed, and the economic determinants of housing outcomes, such as construction costs, land values, housing quality, and ownership rates. Analyzes the flow of funds to and from the different national housing finance sectors. Develops an understanding of the greater financial and macroeconomic implications of the mortgage credit sector, and how policies affect the ways housing asset fluctuations impact national economies. Considers the perspective of investors in international real estate markets and the risks and rewards involved. Draws on lessons from an international comparative approach, and applies them to economic and finance policies at the local, state/provincial, and federal levels within a country of choice. Meets with 11.355 when offered concurrently. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Saiz

11.147 Budgeting and Finance for the Public Sector

Subject meets with 11.487

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines globally relevant challenges of adequately and effectively attending to public sector responsibilities for basic services with limited resources. Particular attention to the contexts of fiscal crises and rapid population growth, as well as shrinkage, through an introduction to methods and processes of budgeting, accounting, and financial mobilization. Case studies and practice exercises explore revenue strategies, demonstrate fiscal analytical competencies, and familiarize students with pioneering examples of promising budget and accounting processes and innovative funding mobilization via taxation, capital markets, and other mechanisms (e.g., land-value capture). Students taking graduate version explore the subject in greater depth.

G. Carolini

11.148 Environmental Justice: Law and Policy

Subject meets with 11.368

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduces frameworks for analyzing and addressing inequalities in the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, particularly by race and by class. Explores the foundations and principles of the environmental justice movement from the perspectives of social science, public policy, and law. Introduces basic principles of US constitutional and environmental law, with a focus on equal protection and civil rights. Applies environmental justice principles to contemporary issues in urban policy and planning, including effects of and responses to climate change and global heating. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Steil

11.149 Decarbonizing Urban Mobility

Subject meets with 11.449
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered
 Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)
 3-3-6 units

Focuses on measuring and reducing emissions from passenger transportation. After examining travel, energy, and climate conditions, students review existing approaches to transport decarbonization. Evaluates new mobility technologies through their potential to contribute to (or delay) a zero emission mobility system. Students consider the policy tools required to achieve approaches to achieve change. Frames past and future emission reductions using an approach based on the Kaya Identity, decomposing past (and potential future) emissions into their component pieces. Seeks to enable students to be intelligent evaluators of approaches to transportation decarbonization and equip them with the tools to develop and evaluate policy measures relevant to their local professional challenges. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Zhao, A. Salzberg

11.150[J] Metropolis: A Comparative History of New York City

Same subject as 21H.220[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21H.220[J].
C. Wilder

11.151[J] Youth Political Participation

Same subject as STS.080[J]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2024-2025: U (Spring)
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject STS.080[J]. Limited to 40.
J. S. Light

11.152[J] The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem

Same subject as 21H.385[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21H.385[J].
C. Wilder

11.153[J] Shanghai and China's Modernization

Same subject as 21H.351[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Fall)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 2-0-10 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21H.351[J].
Staff

11.154 Big Data, Visualization, and Society

Subject meets with 11.454
 Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units. HASS-S
 Credit cannot also be received for 6.8530, 6.C35[J], 6.C85[J], 11.454, 11.C35[J], 11.C85[J]

Data visualizations communicate the insights found in data to non-technical audiences. Students develop technical skills to work with big data to expose societal issues and communicate the insights. Focuses on different topics each year. After framing that topic, the first half of the subject focuses on learning to analyze the data with Python. The second half of the subject focuses on learning web-based data visualization tools (JavaScript and D3). Students learn data storytelling concepts and produce web-based data visualizations for their final projects. Throughout, students learn ethical data practices. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

S. Williams

11.C35[J] Interactive Data Visualization and Society

Same subject as 6.C35[J]
 Subject meets with 6.C85[J], 11.C85[J]
 Prereq: None
 U (Spring)
 3-1-8 units
 Credit cannot also be received for 6.8530, 11.154, 11.454

See description under subject 6.C35[J]. Enrollment limited.
C. D'Ignazio, A. Satyanarayan, S. Williams

11.155[J] Data and Society

Same subject as IDS.057[J], STS.005[J]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered
 Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)
 3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject STS.005[J].
E. Medina, S. Williams

11.156 Healthy Cities: Assessing Health Impacts of Policies and Plans

Subject meets with 11.356

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines the built, psychosocial, economic, and natural environment factors that affect health behaviors and outcomes, including population-level patterns of disease distribution and health disparities. Introduces tools designed to integrate public health considerations into policy-making and planning. Assignments provide students opportunities to develop extensive practical experience bringing a health lens to policy, budgeting, and/or planning debates. Emphasizes health equity and healthy cities, and explores the relationship between health equity and broader goals for social and racial justice. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 30.

M. Arcaya

11.157[J] China's Growth: Political Economy, Business, and Urbanization

Same subject as 15.2391[J]

Subject meets with 11.257[J], 15.239[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring; second half of term)

3-0-3 units

Examines different aspects of the growth of China, which has the second largest economy in the world. Studies the main drivers of Chinese economic growth and the forces behind the largest urbanization in human history. Discusses how to understand China's booming real estate market, and how Chinese firms operate to attain their success, whether through hard-working entrepreneurship or political connections with the government. Explores whether the top-down urban and industrial policy interventions improve efficiency or cause misallocation problems, and whether the Chinese political system is an enabler of Chinese growth or a potential impediment to the country's future growth prospects. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

Y. Huang, S. Zheng, Z. Tan

11.158 Behavioral Science, AI, and Urban Mobility

Subject meets with 11.478

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Integrates behavioral science, artificial intelligence, and transportation technology to shape travel behavior, design mobility systems and business, and reform transportation policies. Introduces methods to sense travel behavior with new technology and measurements; nudge behavior through perception and preference shaping; design mobility systems and ventures that integrate autonomous vehicles, shared mobility, and public transit; and regulate travel with behavior-sensitive transport policies. Challenges students to pilot behavioral experiments and design creative mobility systems, business and policies. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Zhao

11.159 Entrepreneurial Negotiation

Subject meets with 11.259

Prereq: None

U (Fall; partial term)

1-3-2 units

Combines online weekly face-to-face negotiation exercises and in-person lectures designed to empower budding entrepreneurs with negotiation techniques to protect and increase the value of their ideas, deal with ego and build trust in relationships, and navigate entrepreneurial bargaining under constraints of economic uncertainty and complex technical considerations. Students must complete scheduled weekly assignments, including feedback memos to counterpart negotiators, and meet on campus with the instructor to discuss and reflect on their experiences with the course. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

L. Susskind

11.164[J] Human Rights at Home and Abroad

Same subject as 17.391[J]

Subject meets with 11.497

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: U (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

2-0-10 units. HASS-S

Provides a rigorous and critical introduction to the history, foundation, structure, and operation of the human rights movement. Focuses on key ideas, actors, methods and sources, and critically evaluates the field. Addresses current debates in human rights, including the relationship with security, democracy, development and globalization, urbanization, equality (in housing and other economic and social rights; women's rights; ethnic, religious and racial discrimination; and policing/conflict), post-conflict rebuilding and transitional justice, and technology in human rights activism. No prior coursework needed, but work experience, or community service that demonstrates familiarity with global affairs or engagement with ethics and social justice issues, preferred. Students taking graduate version are expected to write a research paper.

B. Rajagopal

11.165 Urban Energy Systems and Policy

Subject meets with 1.286[J], 11.477[J]

Prereq: 14.01 or permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines efforts in developing and advanced nations and regions. Examines key issues in the current and future development of urban energy systems, such as technology, use, behavior, regulation, climate change, and lack of access or energy poverty. Case studies on a diverse sampling of cities explore how prospective technologies and policies can be implemented. Includes intensive group research projects, discussion, and debate. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments.

D. Hsu

11.166 Law, Social Movements, and Public Policy: Comparative and International Experience

Subject meets with 11.496

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Studies the interaction between law, courts, and social movements in shaping domestic and global public policy. Examines how groups mobilize to use law to affect change and why they succeed and fail. Case studies explore the interplay between law, social movements, and public policy in current issues, such as gender, race, labor, trade, climate change/environment, and LGBTQ rights. Introduces theories of public policy, social movements, law and society, and transnational studies. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15.

B. Rajagopal

11.167[J] Global Energy: Politics, Markets, and Policy

Same subject as 14.47[J], 15.2191[J], 17.399[J]

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Credit cannot also be received for 11.267[J], 15.219[J]

See description under subject 15.2191[J]. Preference to juniors, seniors, and Energy Minors.

Staff

11.169 Global Climate Policy and Sustainability

Subject meets with 11.269

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Spring)

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Examines climate politics both nationally and globally. Addresses economic growth, environmental preservation, and social equity through the lens of sustainability. Uses various country and regional cases to analyze how sociopolitical, economic and environmental values shape climate policy. Students develop recommendations for making climate policy more effective and sustainable. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 25.

J. Knox-Hayes

11.170 Cities and Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation

Subject meets with 11.270

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Can be repeated for credit.

Examines climate adaptation and mitigation responses at the city level. Discusses factors of greatest concern in adapting cities to climate change, including infrastructure; energy, food, and water systems; health; housing; and environmental justice. Various city and regional cases are used to analyze how cities are mobilizing to face climate change and integrate core considerations into urban planning. Working on independent case studies, students analyze how cities make urban planning decisions with respect to climate adaptation. In the process, students practice analytical skills to better understand how urban policies are made, and how they can be improved. Students develop recommendations for making climate adaptation more effective and sustainable at the city level. Assignment requirements differ for students completing the graduate version. Limited to 25.

J. Knox-Hayes

11.171 Indigenous Environmental Planning

Subject meets with 11.271

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines how Indigenous peoples' relationships to their homelands and local environments has been adversely affected by Western planning. Explores how these relationships have changed over time as American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other groups indigenous to North America and Hawai'i have adapted to new conditions, including exclusion from markets of exchange, overhunting/overfishing, dispossession, petrochemical development, conservation, mainstream environmentalism, and climate change. Seeks to understand current environmental challenges and their roots and discover potential solutions to address these challenges. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Knox-Hayes, L. Susskind

11.173[JJ] Infrastructure Design for Climate Change

Same subject as 1.103[JJ]

Subject meets with 1.303[JJ], 11.273[JJ]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: U (Fall)

0-2-4 units

See description under subject 1.103[JJ]. Enrollment limited; preference to juniors and seniors.

H. Einstein

Laboratories

11.188 Introduction to Spatial Analysis and GIS Laboratory

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

3-3-6 units. Institute LAB

Credit cannot also be received for 11.205

An introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a tool for visualizing and analyzing spatial data. Explores how GIS can make maps, guide decisions, answer questions, and advocate for change. Class builds toward a project in which students critically apply GIS techniques to an area of interest. Students build data discovery, cartography, and spatial analysis skills while learning to reflect on their positionality within the research design process. Because maps and data are never neutral, the class incorporates discussions of power, ethics, and data throughout as part of a reflective practice. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided.

S. Williams, C. D'Ignazio, E. Huntley

Tutorials, Fieldwork, and Internships

11.UAR[JJ] Climate and Sustainability Undergraduate Advanced Research

Same subject as 1.UAR[JJ], 3.UAR[JJ], 5.UAR[JJ], 12.UAR[JJ], 15.UAR[JJ], 22.UAR[JJ]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

U (Fall, Spring)

2-0-4 units

Can be repeated for credit.

See description under subject 1.UAR[JJ]. Application required; consult MCSC website for more information.

D. Plata, E. Olivetti

11.UR Undergraduate Research

Prereq: None

U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate research opportunities in Urban Studies and Planning. For further information, consult the Departmental Coordinators.

*Staff***11.URG Undergraduate Research**

Prereq: None

U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate research opportunities in Urban Studies and Planning. For further information, consult the Departmental Coordinators.

*Staff***11.THT[J] Thesis Research Design Seminar**

Same subject as 4.THT[J]

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Designed for students writing a thesis in Urban Studies and Planning or Architecture. Develop research topics, review relevant research and scholarship, frame research questions and arguments, choose an appropriate methodology for analysis, and draft introductory and methodology sections.

*C. Abbanat***11.THU Undergraduate Thesis**

Prereq: 11.THT[J]

U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Program of research leading to the writing of an SB thesis. To be arranged by the student under approved supervision.

*Staff***11.189-11.190 Urban Fieldwork**

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Practical application of city and regional planning techniques to towns, cities, and regions, including problems of replanning, redevelopment, and renewal of existing communities. Includes internships, under staff supervision, in municipal and state agencies and departments.

*Staff***11.191-11.192 Independent Study**

Prereq: None

U (Fall, IAP, Spring)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

For undergraduates wishing to pursue further study in specialized areas of urban studies or city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects.

*Staff***11.193-11.194 Supervised Readings**

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Reading and discussion of topics in urban studies and planning.

Staff

11.S03 Special Subject: Transportation Shaping Sustainable Urbanization: Connections with Behavior, Urban Economics and Planning

Prereq: None

U (Fall; partial term)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-1 units

Explores changes in the built environment expected from transportation investments, and how they can be used to promote sustainable and equitable cities. Reflects on how notable characteristics of cities can be explained by their historical and current transportation features. Introduces theoretical basis and empirical evidence to analyze the urban transformation autonomous vehicles will bring and how shared mobility services affect travel behavior, and its implications from an urban planning perspective. Lectures interspersed with guest speakers and an optional field trip. Subject can count toward the 6-unit discovery-focused credit limit for first-year students. Licensed for Fall 2023 by the Committee on Curricula. Limited to 18.

F. Duarte, A. Borges Costa

11.S04 Special Subject: Topics in Affordable Housing

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

1-0-2 units

Weekly seminar-style discussions on topics in affordable housing, including federal funding programs, homelessness prevention and shelters, local land use and zoning for affordability, innovative housing models/designs, fair housing laws, the history of public housing in the US, and international comparisons. Subject can count toward the 6-unit discovery-focused credit limit for first year students.

Ezra Haber Glenn

11.S187 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

For undergraduates wishing to pursue further study or fieldwork in specialized areas of urban studies or city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S188 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None

U (Fall, IAP)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

For undergraduates wishing to pursue further study or fieldwork in specialized areas of urban studies or city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S189 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None

U (Spring)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

For undergraduates wishing to pursue further study or fieldwork in specialized areas of urban studies or city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S195 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None

U (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

For undergraduates wishing to pursue further study or fieldwork in specialized areas of urban studies or city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S196-11.S199 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None

U (Fall)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

For undergraduates wishing to pursue further study or fieldwork in specialized areas of urban studies or city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction. 11.S198 is graded P/D/F.

Staff

Master's Core Subjects

11.200 Gateway: Urban Studies and Planning 1

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

4-1-7 units

Introduces the theory and practice of planning and urban studies through exploration of the history of the field, case studies, and criticisms of traditional practice.

Faculty

11.201 Gateway: Urban Studies and Planning 2

Prereq: 11.200

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

4-1-7 units

Builds on 11.200 by exploring in more detail contemporary planning tools and techniques, as well as case studies of planning and urban studies practice.

Faculty

11.202 Planning Economics

Prereq: 11.203

G (Spring; second half of term)

3-0-3 units

Students use economic theory tools acquired in 11.203 to understand the mutual processes of individual action and structural constraint and investigate crises in search of opportunities for mitigation and reparation. Investigates a variety of structural crises from throughout the realms of planning, such as: capitalism, climate change, and (in)action; white supremacy, segregation, and gentrification; colonialism, informality, and infrastructure; aut centrality and other legacies of the built environment.

D. Buntten

11.203 Microeconomics

Prereq: None

G (Spring; first half of term)

3-0-3 units

Students develop a suite of tools from economic theory to understand the mutual processes of individual action and structural constraint. Students apply these tools to human interaction and social decision-making. Builds an understanding of producer theory from the collaborative possibilities and physical constraints that unfold as production is scaled up. Presents consumer theory as the process of individuals doing the best for themselves, their families, and their communities -- subject to the sociostructural constraints under which they operate. Considers alternative frameworks of social welfare, with a specific focus on marginalization and crisis, as well as common policy interventions and their implications under different constructions of welfare.

D. Buntten

11.204[*J*] People and the Planet: Environmental Histories and Engineering

Same subject as IDS.524[*J*]

Subject meets with 11.004[*J*], STS.033[*J*]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-3-6 units

Explores historical and cultural aspects of complex environmental problems and engineering approaches to sustainable solutions. Introduces quantitative analyses and methodological tools to understand environmental issues that have human and natural components. Demonstrates concepts through a series of historical and cultural analyses of environmental challenges and their engineering responses. Builds writing, quantitative modeling, and analytical skills in assessing environmental systems problems and developing engineering solutions. Through environmental data gathering and analysis, students engage with the challenges and possibilities of engineering in complex, interacting systems, and investigate plausible, symbiotic, systems-oriented solutions. Students taking graduate version complete additional analysis of reading assignments and a more in-depth and longer final paper.

A. Slocum, R. Scheffler, J. Trancik

11.205 Introduction to Spatial Analysis and GIS

Prereq: None

G (Fall, Spring; first half of term)

2-2-2 units

Credit cannot also be received for 11.188

An introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS): a tool for visualizing and analyzing data representing locations and their attributes. GIS is invaluable for planners, scholars, and professionals who shape cities and a political instrument with which activists advocate for change. Class includes exercises to make maps, query databases, and analyze spatial data. Because maps and data are never neutral, the class incorporates discussions of power, ethics, and data throughout as part of a reflective practice. Limited enrollment; preference to first-year MCP students.

S. Williams, C. D'Ignazio, E. Huntley

11.206 Poverty and Economic Security

Subject meets with 11.006

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units

Explores the evolution of poverty and economic security in the US within a global context. Examines the impacts of recent economic restructuring and globalization. Reviews current debates about the fate of the middle class, sources of increasing inequality, and approaches to advancing economic opportunity and security. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Glasmeier

11.220 Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods for Planning I

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall; first half of term)

3-0-3 units

Develops logical, empirically based arguments using statistical techniques and analytic methods. Covers elementary statistics, probability, and other types of quantitative reasoning useful for description, estimation, comparison, and explanation. Emphasizes the use and limitations of analytical techniques in planning practice. Restricted to MCP students.

J. Steil

Department-wide Subjects

11.222 Introduction to Critical Qualitative Methods

Prereq: None

G (Fall; second half of term)

3-0-3 units

Introduces qualitative methods as an approach to critical inquiry in urban planning research and practice. Emphasizes the importance of historical context, place-specificity, and the experiences and views of individuals as ways of knowing relationships of power and privilege between people, in place, and over time. Explores a range of critical qualitative methods including those used in archival, interview, observational, visual, and case study analysis.

K. Crockett

11.228[] Collectives: New Forms of Sharing

Same subject as 4.229[]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

See description under subject 4.229[]. Limited to 15.

Consult R. Segal

11.233 Research Design for Policy Analysis and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Develops skills in research design for policy analysis and planning. Emphasizes the logic of the research process and its constituent elements. Topics include philosophy of science, question formulation, hypothesis generation and theory construction, data collection techniques (e.g. experimental, survey, interview), ethical issues in research, and research proposal preparation. Limited to doctoral students in Course 11.

A. Glasmeier

11.234 Making Sense: Qualitative Methods for Designers and Planners

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-3-6 units

Surveys uses of qualitative methods and social theory in urban design and planning research and practice. Topics include observing environments, physical traces, and environmental behavior; asking questions; focused interviews; standardized questionnaires; use of written archival materials; use of visual materials, including photographs, new media, and maps; case studies; and comparative methods. Emphasizes use of each of these skills to collect and make sense of qualitative data in community and institutional settings.

*E. C. James***11.236 Participatory Action Research (PAR)**

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Introduces students to participatory action research (PAR), an approach to research and inquiry that enables communities to examine and address consequential societal problems. Explores theoretical and practical questions at the heart of partnerships between applied social scientists and community partners. Focus includes the history of PAR and action research; debates regarding PAR as a form of applied social science; and practical, political, and ethical questions in the practice of PAR. Guides students through an iterative process for developing their own personal theories of practice. Covers co-designing and co-conducting research with community partners at various stages of the research process. Examines actual cases in which PAR-like methods have been used with greater or lesser success; and interaction with community members, organizations, and individuals who have been involved in PAR collaborations.

*M. Arcaya***11.238[J] Ethics of Intervention**

Same subject as 21A.409[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

An historical and cross-cultural study of the logics and practices of intervention: the ways that individuals, institutions, and governments identify conditions of need or states of emergency within and across borders that require a response. Examines when a response is viewed as obligatory, when is it deemed unnecessary, and by whom; when the intercession is considered fulfilled; and the rationales or assumptions that are employed in assessing interventions. Theories of the state, globalization, and humanitarianism; power, policy, and institutions; gender, race, and ethnicity; and law, ethics, and morality are examined.

*E. C. James***11.239 The City in Film**

Subject meets with 11.139

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

2-2-5 units

Surveys important developments in urbanism from 1900 to the present, using film as a lens to explore and interpret aspects of the urban experience in the US and abroad. Topics include industrialization, demographics, diversity, the environment, and the relationship between the community and the individual. Films vary from year to year but always include a balance of classics from the history of film, an occasional experimental/avant-garde film, and a number of more recent, mainstream movies. Students taking undergraduate version complete writing assignments that focus on observation, analysis, and the essay, and give an oral presentation.

E. Glenn

11.240[J] Walking the City

Same subject as 4.242[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

2-0-10 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Students investigate how landscapes and cities shape them — and vice versa — by examining the literature of walking and the environments in which they move. Through extensive walking, students explore the city to analyze its design and varied histories, drawing on cartography, art, sociology, and memory to create fresh narratives. Students write architecture and city criticism, design "story maps," and are invited to walk as an art practice. Emphasis is on the relationship between the human body and freedom, or a lack thereof, and between pathways and the complex emotions that emerge from traversing them. Limited to 12. Preference to Course 4 and 11 graduate students who have completed at least two semesters.

G. Cadogan

11.243 Research Methods in Global Health and Development

Subject meets with 11.143

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-3-6 units

Provides training for students to critically analyze the relationship between "health" and "development." Draws upon the theory and methods of medical anthropology, social medicine, public health, and development to track how culture, history, and political economy influence health and disease in global communities. Students work in teams to formulate research questions, and collect and analyze qualitative data in clinical and community settings in the greater Boston area, in order to design effective development interventions aimed at reducing health disparities in the US and abroad. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

E. C. James

11.244[J] Race, History, and the Built Environment

Same subject as STS.424[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units

Examines how the development of the built environment produces and reproduces conceptions of race - sociobiological theories of human difference. Using historical and cross-cultural cases, tracks the social and political lives of material objects, infrastructures, technologies, and architectures using projects of settler colonialism, nation-building, community development and planning, and in post-conflict and post-disaster settings. Analyzes social theories of race, place, space, and materiality; power, identity, and embodiment; and memory, death, and haunting. Explores how conceptions of belonging, citizenship, and exclusion are represented and designed spatially through analysis of examples, such as the appropriation of land for infrastructure programs, the erasure and commemoration of heritage in public spaces, and the use of the built environment to impose colonial ideologies. Limited to 14 students.

Erica James

11.245[J] DesignX Entrepreneurship

Same subject as 4.245[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (IAP)

4-0-2 units

Students in teams accepted to the MITdesignX accelerator begin work on their ventures in this intense two-week bootcamp. Participants identify the needs and problems that demonstrate the demand for their innovative technology, policy, products, and/or services. They research and investigate various markets and stakeholders pertinent to their ventures, and begin to test their ideas and thesis in real-world interviews and interactions. Subject presented in workshop format, giving teams the chance to jump-start their ventures together with a cohort of people working on ideas that span the realm of design, planning real estate, and the human environment. Registration limited to students accepted to the MITdesignX accelerator in the fall.

S. Gronfeldt, D. Frenchman, G. Rosenzweig

11.246[J] DesignX Accelerator

Same subject as 4.246[J]
 Prereq: Permission of instructor
 G (Spring)
 2-4-6 units

Students continue to work in their venture teams to advance innovative ideas, products, and services oriented to design, planning, and the human environment. Presented in a workshop format with supplementary lectures. Teams are matched with external mentors for additional support in business and product development. At the end of the term, teams pitch their ventures to an audience from across the school and MIT, investors, industry, and cities. Registration limited to students accepted to the MITdesignX accelerator in the fall.

S. Gronfeldt, D. Frenchman, G. Rosenzweig

11.250 Transportation Research Design

Prereq: Permission of instructor
 G (Fall, Spring)
 2-0-1 units
 Can be repeated for credit.

Seminar dissects ten transportation studies from head to toe to illustrate how research ideas are initiated, framed, analyzed, evidenced, written, presented, criticized, revised, extended, and published, quoted and applied. Students learn by mimicking and learn by doing, and design and execute their own transportation research. Limited to 20.

J. Zhao

11.251 Frontier of Transportation Research

Prereq: None
 G (Fall, Spring)
 1-0-2 units
 Can be repeated for credit.

Surveys the frontier of transportation research offered by 12 MIT faculty presenting their latest findings, ideas, and innovations. Students write weekly memos to reflect on these talks, make connections to their own research, and give short presentations.

Jinhua Zhao

11.252[J] Design and Development of Games for Learning

Same subject as CMS.863[J]
 Subject meets with 11.127[J], CMS.590[J]
 Prereq: None
 G (Spring)
 3-6-3 units

See description under subject CMS.863[J].

E. Klopfer

11.255 Negotiation and Dispute Resolution in the Public Sector

Prereq: None
 G (Spring)
 4-0-8 units

Investigates social conflict and distributional disputes in the public sector. While theoretical aspects of conflict and consensus building are considered, focus is on the practice of negotiation and dispute resolution. Comparisons between unassisted and assisted negotiation are reviewed along with the techniques of facilitation and mediation.

L. Susskind

11.256[J] Revealing the City

Same subject as 4.256[J]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)
 Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered
 2-0-10 units

Through study of the essay as a literary form and mode of writing, students explore the promise and perils of the variegated city. Participants create artful narratives by examining how various literary forms — poetry, fiction, and essay — illuminate our understanding of cities. Special emphasis is on the writer as the reader's advocate, with the goal of writing with greater creativity and sophistication for specialized and general-interest audiences. Limited to 12. Preference to Course 4 and 11 graduate students who have completed at least two semesters.

G. Cadogan

11.257[J] China's Growth: Political Economy, Business, and Urbanization

Same subject as 15.239[J]
 Subject meets with 11.157[J], 15.2391[J]
 Prereq: None
 G (Spring; second half of term)
 3-0-3 units

Examines different aspects of the growth of China, which has the second largest economy in the world. Studies the main drivers of Chinese economic growth and the forces behind the largest urbanization in human history. Discusses how to understand China's booming real estate market, and how Chinese firms operate to attain their success, whether through hard-working entrepreneurship or political connections with the government. Explores whether the top-down urban and industrial policy interventions improve efficiency or cause misallocation problems, and whether the Chinese political system is an enabler of Chinese growth or a potential impediment to the country's future growth prospects. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

Y. Huang, S. Zheng, Z. Tan

11.258 Sustainable Urbanization Research Seminar

Prereq: None
 G (Fall)
 2-0-1 units
 Can be repeated for credit.

Reviews the seminal as well as latest research on the driving forces of urbanization, real estate markets, urban sustainability in both developed and developing economies. Examines the tensions as well as synergies between urbanization and sustainability, and designs and evaluates policies and business strategies that can enhance the synergies while reduce the tensions. Covers various research topics under the umbrella of urbanization under three modules (sustainable urbanization; sustainable real estate; urbanization in emerging economies) where students study the initiation of an idea to its publication, including but not limited to, analyzing, framing, writing and critiquing as parts of the process. Sessions are organized as a semi-structured dialogue.

Siqi Zheng

11.259 Entrepreneurial Negotiation

Subject meets with 11.159
 Prereq: None
 G (Fall; partial term)
 1-3-2 units

Combines online weekly face-to-face negotiation exercises and in-person lectures designed to empower budding entrepreneurs with negotiation techniques to protect and increase the value of their ideas, deal with ego and build trust in relationships, and navigate entrepreneurial bargaining under constraints of economic uncertainty and complex technical considerations. Students must complete scheduled weekly assignments, including feedback memos to counterpart negotiators, and meet on campus with the instructor to discuss and reflect on their experiences with the course. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

L. Susskind

11.260 Sustainable Development and Institutions

Prereq: None
 G (Fall)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units

Explores the theory and application of the principles of sustainable development as they relate to organizational change management, decision-making processes, goal setting methodology and solution development. Leverages the MIT campus as a living laboratory to gain unique insight into the change management and solution development process. Limited to 18.

J. Newman

11.263[*J*] Urban Last-Mile Logistics

Same subject as 1.263[*I*], SCM.293[*I*]
 Prereq: SCM.254 or permission of instructor
 Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered
 Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring; second half of term)
 2-0-4 units

See description under subject SCM.293[*I*].

M. Winkenbach

11.267[*J*] Global Energy: Politics, Markets, and Policy

Same subject as 15.219[*I*]
 Prereq: None
 G (Spring)
 Not offered regularly; consult department
 3-0-9 units
 Credit cannot also be received for 11.167[*I*], 14.47[*I*], 15.2191[*I*], 17.399[*I*]

See description under subject 15.219[*I*].

Staff

11.268 Laws of the Land: Land Use and Environmental Law and Policy

Prereq: None
 G (Fall; first half of term)
 3-0-3 units

Environmental justice and climate change are pressing contemporary concerns. Crucial dimensions of the exposure of households to environmental harms and benefits are determined by land use and environmental laws. Land use and environmental laws are also central to reducing carbon emissions and building environmentally sustainable and resilient communities. Introduces students to the legal and social science dimension of these two crucial areas of law that is well-covered in the current curriculum. Enrollment limited to 30.

J. Steil

11.269 Global Climate Policy and Sustainability

Subject meets with 11.169

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines climate politics both nationally and globally. Addresses economic growth, environmental preservation, and social equity through the lens of sustainability. Uses various country and regional cases to analyze how sociopolitical, economic and environmental values shape climate policy. Students develop recommendations for making climate policy more effective and sustainable. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 25.

J. Knox-Hayes

11.270 Cities and Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation

Subject meets with 11.170

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Examines climate adaptation and mitigation responses at the city level. Discusses factors of greatest concern in adapting cities to climate change, including infrastructure; energy, food, and water systems; health; housing; and environmental justice. Various city and regional cases are used to analyze how cities are mobilizing to face climate change and integrate core considerations into urban planning. Working on independent case studies, students analyze how cities make urban planning decisions with respect to climate adaptation. In the process, students practice analytical skills to better understand how urban policies are made, and how they can be improved. Students develop recommendations for making climate adaptation more effective and sustainable at the city level. Assignment requirements differ for students completing the graduate version. Limited to 25.

J. Knox-Hayes

11.271 Indigenous Environmental Planning

Subject meets with 11.171

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines how Indigenous peoples' relationships to their homelands and local environments has been adversely affected by Western planning. Explores how these relationships have changed over time as American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other groups indigenous to North America and Hawai'i have adapted to new conditions, including exclusion from markets of exchange, overhunting/overfishing, dispossession, petrochemical development, conservation, mainstream environmentalism, and climate change. Seeks to understand current environmental challenges and their roots and discover potential solutions to address these challenges. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 25.

J. Knox-Hayes, L. Susskind

11.273[*J*] Infrastructure Design for Climate Change

Same subject as 1.303[*J*]

Subject meets with 1.103[*J*], 11.173[*J*]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

0-2-4 units

See description under subject 1.303[*J*].

H. Einstein

11.274 Cybersecurity Clinic

Subject meets with 11.074

Prereq: None

G (Fall, Spring)

2-4-6 units

Provides an opportunity for MIT students to become certified in methods of assessing the vulnerability of public agencies (particularly agencies that manage critical urban infrastructure) to the risk of cyberattack. Certification involves completing an 8-hour, self-paced, online set of four modules during the first four weeks of the semester followed by a competency exam. Students who successfully complete the exam become certified. The certified students work in teams with client agencies in various cities around the United States. Through preparatory interactions with the agencies, and short on-site visits, teams prepare vulnerability assessments that client agencies can use to secure the technical assistance and financial support they need to manage the risks of cyberattack they are facing. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15.

L. Susskind

Program Group Subjects

11.301[*J*] Introduction to Urban Design and Development

Same subject as 4.252[*J*]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the physical and social structure of cities and ways they can be changed. Includes significant thinkers in urban form, 20th-century American city design, urban design and society, global urban design, and design of neighborhoods and streets. Core lectures are supplemented by student papers examining the relationship of contemporary projects to history and theory, and factors of high quality global urban design and development. Guest speakers present cases involving current projects or research illustrating scope and methods of urban design theory and practice. Intended for those seeking an introduction to fundamental knowledge of theory and praxis in city design and development.

B. Ryan

11.302[*J*] Urban Design Politics

Same subject as 4.253[*J*]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines ways that urban design contributes to distribution of political power and resources in cities. Investigates the nature of relations between built form and political purposes through close study of public and private sector design commissions and planning processes that have been clearly motivated by political pressures, as well as more tacit examples. Lectures and discussions focus on cases from both developed and developing countries.

L. Vale

11.303[*J*] Real Estate Development Studio

Same subject as 4.254[*J*]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

6-0-12 units

Focuses on the synthesis of urban, mixed-use real estate projects, including the integration of physical design and programming with finance and marketing. Interdisciplinary student teams analyze how to maximize value across multiple dimensions in the process of preparing professional development proposals for sites in US cities and internationally. Reviews emerging real estate products and innovative developments to provide a foundation for studio work. Two major projects are interspersed with lectures and field trips. Integrates skills and knowledge in the MSRED program; also open to other students interested in real estate development by permission of the instructors.

Staff

11.304[*J*] Site and Environmental Systems Planning

Same subject as 4.255[*J*]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

6-0-9 units

Introduces a range of practical approaches involved in evaluating and planning sites within the context of natural and cultural systems. Develops the knowledge and skills to analyze and plan a site for development through exercises and an urban design project. Topics include land inventory, urban form, spatial organization of uses, parcelization, design of roadways, grading, utility systems, off-site impacts, and landscape strategies.

E. Ben-Joseph, M. A. Ocampo

11.305 Doing Good by Doing Well: Planning and Development Case Studies that Promote both the Public Good and Real Estate Value

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

2-0-1 units

Seminar studies how the messy and complex forces of politics, planning and the real estate market have collectively shaped Boston's urban fabric and skyline in the last two decades. Using some of the city's most important real estate development proposals as case studies, students dissect and analyze Boston's negotiated development review and permitting process to understand what it takes beyond a great development concept and a sound financial pro forma to earn community and political support. Throughout the term, students identify strategies for success and pitfalls for failure within this intricate approval process, as well as how these lessons can be generalized and applied to other cities and real estate markets.

K. Shen

11.307[J] China Urban Design Studio

Same subject as 4.173[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

0-21-0 units

Design studio that includes architects, urban designers, and city planners working in teams on a contemporary development project of importance in China, particularly in transitional, deindustrializing cities. Students analyze conditions, explore alternatives, and synthesize architecture, city design, and implementation plans. Lectures and brief study tours expose students to history and contemporary issues of urbanism in China. Offered every other spring at MIT in parallel with urban design studio at Tsinghua University, Beijing, involving students and faculty from both schools. Field visit to China will occur in January prior to studio. Limited to 10.
B. Ryan

11.308[J] Ecological Urbanism Seminar

Same subject as 4.213[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Weds the theory and practice of city design and planning as a means of adaptation with the insights of ecology and other environmental disciplines. Presents ecological urbanism as critical to the future of the city and its design, as it provides a framework for addressing challenges that threaten humanity — such as climate change, rising sea level, and environmental and social justice — while fulfilling human needs for health, safety, welfare, meaning, and delight. Applies a historical and theoretical perspective to the solution of real-world challenges. Enrollment limited.

A. Spirn

11.309[J] Sensing Place: Photography as Inquiry

Same subject as 4.215[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Explores photography as a disciplined way of seeing, and as a medium of inquiry and of expressing ideas. Readings, observations, and photographs form the basis of discussions on landscape, light, significant detail, place, poetics, narrative, and how photography can inform research, design and planning, among other issues. Recommended for students who want to employ visual methods in their theses. Enrollment limited.

A. Spirn

11.312 Engaging Community: Models and Methods for Strengthening Democracy

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the demographic complexity of cities and their fundamental design challenges for planners and other professions responsible for engaging the public. Working with clients, participants learn design principles for creating public engagement practices necessary for building inclusive civic infrastructure in cities. Participants also have the opportunity to review and practice strategies, techniques, and methods for engaging communities in demographically complex settings.

C. McDowell

11.313 Advanced Research Workshop in Landscape and Urbanism

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units

In-depth research workshop on pressing socio-economic and environmental design issue of our time, includes discussion and practices with real-world stakeholders experimenting with new development typologies and technologies. The goal is to generate well-grounded, design-based solutions and landscape infrastructural responses to the physical design problem being addressed. Specific focus and practicum status is adjusted on a year-to-year basis.

A. Berger

11.315[J] Disaster Resilient Design

Same subject as 4.217[J]

Subject meets with 4.218

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-6 units

See description under subject 4.217[J]. Limited to 15.

Consult M. Mazereeuw

11.318 Senseable Cities

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Studies how ubiquitous and real-time information technology can help us to understand and improve cities and regions. Explores the impact of integrating real-time information technology into the built environment. Introduces theoretical foundations of ubiquitous computing. Provides technical tools for tactile development of small-scale projects. Limited to 24.

C. Ratti

11.320 Digital City Design Workshop

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Students develop proposals, at the city and neighborhood scales, that integrate urban design, planning, and digital technology. Aims to create more efficient, responsive, and livable urban places and systems that combine physical form with digital media, sensing, communications, and data analysis. Students conduct field research, build project briefs, and deliver designs or prototypes, while supported by lectures, case studies, and involvement from experts and representatives of subject cities. Limited to 12.

C. Ratti

11.321 Data Science and Real Estate

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

4-0-8 units

Introduces the principles of data science and how data science is impacting cities and real estate, with a combination of fundamental lectures, guest speakers, and use cases. Explores how data science has been adopted by the real estate industry — from developers to city planners. Presents practical skills in data science and provides the opportunity for students to produce their own work and practice basic coding skills applied to real estate.

F. Duarte

11.323 International Real Estate Transactions

Prereq: None

G (Spring; second half of term)

3-0-3 units

Focuses on analyzing a variety of unique international real estate investment and development transactions. Blends real estate investing and development decision-making with discussion-based learning from a multidisciplinary standpoint. Seeks to facilitate a richer understanding of domestic (US) real estate transaction concepts by contextualizing them in the general analytical framework underpinning international real estate investment decision-making.

M. Srivastava

11.324 Modeling Pedestrian Activity in Cities

Subject meets with 11.024

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Investigates the interaction between pedestrian activity, urban form, and land-use patterns in relatively dense urban environments. Informed by recent literature on pedestrian mobility, behavior, and biases, subject takes a practical approach, using software tools and analysis methods to operationalize and model pedestrian activity. Uses simplified yet powerful and scalable network analysis methods that focus uniquely on pedestrians, rather than engaging in comprehensive travel demand modeling across all modes. Emphasizes not only modeling or predicting pedestrian activity in given built settings, but also analyzing and understanding how changes in the built environment — land use changes, density changes, and connectivity changes — can affect pedestrian activity. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Sevtsuk

11.325 Technological Change & Innovation for Real Estate and Cities

Prereq: None

G (Fall; second half of term)

2-0-4 units

Seeks to examine the technological change and innovation that is disrupting the foundation of how we create the built environment. Through a series of educational workshops, students scout, catalog, and track technologies by looking at new real estate uses, products, processes, and organizational strategies at MIT labs and around the globe. Participants contribute to an interactive web tool, "The Tech Tracker," which provides technology intelligence to students and real estate professionals to enhance their understanding of technological progress.

F. Duarte, J. Scott

11.328[] Urban Design Skills: Observing, Interpreting, and Representing the City

Same subject as 4.240[]

Prereq: None

G (Fall; first half of term)

4-2-2 units

Introduces methods for observing, interpreting, and representing the urban environment. Students draw on their senses and develop their ability to deduce, question, and test conclusions about how the built environment is designed, used, and valued. The interrelationship of built form, circulation networks, open space, and natural systems are a key focus. Supplements existing classes that cover theory and history of city design and urban planning and prepares students without design backgrounds with the fundamentals of physical planning. Intended as a foundation for 11.329[].

*E. Ben-Joseph, M. Ocampo***11.329[] Advanced Urban Design Skills: Observing, Interpreting, and Representing the City**

Same subject as 4.248[]

Prereq: 11.328[] or permission of instructor

G (Fall; second half of term)

4-2-4 units

Through a studio-based course in planning and urban design, builds on the foundation acquired in 11.328[] to engage in creative exploration of how design contributes to resilient, just, and vibrant urban places. Through the planning and design of two projects, students creatively explore spatial ideas and utilize various digital techniques to communicate their design concepts, giving form to strategic thinking. Develops approaches and techniques to evaluate the plural structure of the built environment and offer propositions that address policies and regulations as well as the values, behaviors, and wishes of the different users.

*E. Ben-Joseph, M. Ocampo***11.330[] The Making of Cities**

Same subject as 4.241[]

Prereq: 11.001[], 11.301[], or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Units arranged

See description under subject 4.241[].

*L. Jacobi, R. Segal***11.332[] Urban Design Studio**

Same subject as 4.163[]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

See description under subject 4.163[].

*Consult R. Segal***11.333[] Urban Design Seminar: Perspectives on Contemporary Practice**

Same subject as 4.244[]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

2-0-7 units

Examines innovations in urban design practice occurring through the work of leading practitioners in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning. Features lectures by major national and global practitioners in urban design. Projects and topics vary based on term and speakers but may cover architectural urbanism, landscape and ecology, arts and culture, urban design regulation and planning agencies, and citywide and regional design. Focuses on analysis and synthesis of themes discussed in presentations and discussions.

*Staff***11.334[] Advanced Seminar in Landscape and Urbanism**

Same subject as 4.264[]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Explores theories, practices, and emerging trends in the fields of landscape architecture and urbanism, such as systemic design, landscape urbanism, engineered nature, drosscapes, urban biodiversity, urban mobility, megaregions, and urban agriculture. Lectures, readings, and guest speakers present a wide array of multi-disciplinary topics, including current works from P-REX lab. Students conduct independent and group research that is future-oriented.

A. Berger

11.337[J] Urban Design Ideals and Action

Same subject as 4.247[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units

Examines the relationship between urban design ideals, urban design action, and the built environment through readings, discussions, presentations, and papers. Analyzes the diverse design ideals that influence cities and settlements, and investigates how urban designers use them to shape urban form. Provides a critical understanding of the diverse formal methods used to intervene creatively in both developed and developing contexts, especially pluralistic and informal built environments.

B. Ryan

11.338 Urban Design Studio

Prereq: 11.328[J] or permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

Units arranged

Examines the rehabilitation and re-imagination of a city, region, or territory. Analyzes human settlement at multiple scales: regional, citywide, neighborhood, and individual dwellings. Aims to shape innovative design solutions, enhance social amenity, and improve economic equity through strategic and creative geographical, urban design and architectural thinking. Intended for students with backgrounds in architecture, community development, urban design, and physical planning. Limited to 12 via application and lottery.

B. Ryan

11.339 Downtown

Subject meets with 11.026[J], 21H.321[J]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units

Seminar on downtown in US cities from the late 19th century to the late 20th. Emphasis on downtown as an idea, place, and cluster of interests, on the changing character of downtown, and on recent efforts to rebuild it. Topics considered include subways, skyscrapers, highways, urban renewal, and retail centers. Focus on readings, discussions, and individual research projects. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

R. M. Fogelson

11.344[J] Innovative Project Delivery in the Public and Private Sectors

Same subject as 1.472[J]

Prereq: None

G (Spring; first half of term)

2-0-4 units

Develops a strong strategic understanding of how best to deliver various types of projects in the built environment. Examines the compatibility of various project delivery methods, consisting of organizations, contracts, and award methods, with certain types of projects and owners. Six methods examined: traditional general contracting; construction management; multiple primes; design-build; turnkey; and build-operate-transfer. Includes lectures, case studies, guest speakers, and a team project to analyze a case example.

C. M. Gordon

11.345[J] Entrepreneurship in the Built Environment

Same subject as 1.462[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall; first half of term)

2-0-4 units

Introduction to entrepreneurship and how it shapes the world we live in. Through experiential learning in a workshop setting, students start to develop entrepreneurial mindset and skills. Through a series of workshops, students are introduced to the concept of Venture Design to create new venture proposals for the built environment as a method to understand the role of the entrepreneur in the fields of design, planning, real estate, and other related industries.

S. Gronfeldt, G. Rosenzweig

11.348[J] Contemporary Urbanism Proseminar: Theory and Representation (New)

Same subject as 4.228[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

Units arranged

See description under subject 4.228[J]. Limited to 25.

Consult R. Ghosn

11.350 Sustainable Real Estate: Analysis and Investment

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Offers insight into tension and synergy between sustainability and the real estate industry. Considers why sustainability matters for real estate, how real estate can contribute to sustainability and remain profitable, and what investment and market opportunities exist for sustainable real estate products and how they vary across asset classes. Lectures combine economic and business insights and tools to understand the challenges and opportunities of sustainable real estate. Provides a framework to understand issues in sustainability in real estate and examine economic mechanisms, technological advances, business models, and investment and financing strategies available to promote sustainability. Discusses buildings as basic physical assets; cities as the context where buildings interact with the built environment, policies, and urban systems; and portfolios as sustainable real estate investment vehicles in capital markets. Enrollment for MSRED, MCP, and MBA students is prioritized.

*S. Zheng***11.351 Real Estate Ventures I: Negotiating Development-Phase Agreements**

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Focuses on key business and legal issues within the principal agreements used to control, entitle, capitalize, and construct a mixed-use real estate development. Through the lens of the real estate developer and its counter-parties, students identify, discuss, and negotiate the most important business issues in right of entry, purchase and sale, development, and joint-venture agreements, as well as a construction contract and construction loan agreement. Students work closely with attorneys who specialize in the construction of such agreements and with students from area law schools and Columbia University and New York University. Enrollment limited to approximately 25; preference to MSRED students. No listeners.

*W. T. McGrath***11.352 Real Estate Ventures II: Negotiating Leases, Financings, and Restructurings**

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Focuses on key business and legal issues within the principal agreements used to lease, finance, and restructure a real estate venture. Through the lens of the real estate developer and its counter-parties, students identify, discuss and negotiate the most important business issues in office and retail leases, and permanent loan, mezzanine loan, inter-creditor, standstill/forbearance, and loan modification (workout) agreements. Students work closely with attorneys who specialize in the construction of such agreements and with students from area law schools and New York University and Columbia University. Single-asset real estate bankruptcy and the federal income tax consequences of debt restructuring are also addressed. Limited to 25; preference to MSRED students; no Listeners.

*W. T. McGrath***11.353[J] Securitization of Mortgages and Other Assets**

Same subject as 15.429[J]

Prereq: 11.431[J], 15.401, or permission of instructor

G (Spring; second half of term)

3-0-3 units

Investigates the economics and finance of securitization. Considers the basic mechanics of structuring deals for various asset-backed securities. Investigates the pricing of pooled assets, using Monte Carlo and other option pricing techniques, as well as various trading strategies used in these markets. Limited to 55.

W. Torous

11.355 International Housing Economics and Finance

Prereq: 11.202, 11.203, 14.01, or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-0-6 units

Credit cannot also be received for 11.145

Presents a theory of comparative differences in international housing outcomes. Introduces institutional differences in ways housing expenditures are financed, and economic determinants of housing outcomes (construction costs, land values, housing quality, ownership rates). Analyzes flow of funds to and from the different national housing finance sectors. Develops an understanding of the greater financial and macroeconomic implications of mortgage credit sector, and how policies affect ways housing asset fluctuations impact national economies. Considers perspective of investors in international real estate markets and risks and rewards involved. Draws on lessons from international comparative approach, applies them to economic and finance policies at the local, state/provincial, and federal levels within country of choice. Meets with 11.145 when offered concurrently. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Saiz

11.356 Healthy Cities: Assessing Health Impacts of Policies and Plans

Subject meets with 11.156

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines the built, psychosocial, economic, and natural environment factors that affect health behaviors and outcomes, including population-level patterns of disease distribution and health disparities. Introduces tools designed to integrate public health considerations into policy-making and planning. Assignments provide students opportunities to develop experience bringing a health lens to policy, budgeting, and/or planning debates. Emphasizes health equity and healthy cities, and explores the relationship between health equity and broader goals for social and racial justice. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 30.

M. Arcaya

11.360 Community Growth and Land Use Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Seminar, workshops, and fieldwork on strategies to use municipal land use regulations to shape urban growth and equity. Practicum workshop builds skills in civic engagement, policy-relevant research, zoning regulations, and physical design and planning. The workshop begins with implementation of qualitative and quantitative research into the existing built environment, social, economic, and political context. It continues with the planning, design, and implementation of community engagement strategies to shape goals and vision for the projects. The practicum then explores land use scenarios, design and innovative zoning and regulatory techniques, to improve equity in the areas of housing, environment, economic development, mobility, and the public realm. Projects arranged with small teams serving municipal clients experiencing pressures of urban growth and change in Massachusetts. Preference to MCP second year students.

J. Levine

11.365 Sustainable Urbanization Practicum

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Working with a city development client (city government/real estate developer/NGO) in a fast-urbanizing region, practicum provides students an opportunity to synthesize policy, planning or urban science solutions towards sustainable urbanization, within the constraints of a client-based project. Priority is given to MCP students.

S. Zheng

11.367 Land Use Law and Politics: Race, Place, and Law

Subject meets with 11.067

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Explores conceptions of spatial justice and introduces students to basic principles of US law and legal analysis, focused on land use, equal protection, civil rights, fair housing, and local government law, in order to examine who should control how land is used. Examines the rights of owners of land and the types of regulatory and market-based tools that are available to control land use. Explores basic principles of civil rights and anti-discrimination law and focuses on particular civil rights problems associated with the land use regulatory system, such as exclusionary zoning, residential segregation, the fair distribution of undesirable land uses, and gentrification. Introduces basic skills of statutory drafting and interpretation. Assignments differ for those taking the graduate version.

J. Steil

11.368 Environmental Justice: Law and Policy

Subject meets with 11.148

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Introduces frameworks for analyzing and addressing inequalities in the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, particularly by race and by class. Explores the foundations and principles of the environmental justice movement from the perspectives of social science, public policy, and law. Introduces basic principles of US constitutional and environmental law, with a focus on equal protection and civil rights. Applies environmental justice principles to contemporary issues in urban policy and planning, including effects of and responses to climate change and global heating. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Steil

11.371[J] Sustainable Energy

Same subject as 1.818[J], 2.65[J], 10.391[J], 22.811[J]

Subject meets with 2.650[J], 10.291[J], 22.081[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-1-8 units

See description under subject 22.811[J].

M. W. Golay

11.373[J] Science, Politics, and Environmental Policy

Same subject as 12.885[J]

Subject meets with 12.385

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

3-0-6 units

See description under subject 12.885[J].

S. Solomon, J. Knox-Hayes

11.381 Infrastructure Systems in Theory and Practice

Prereq: (14.01 and (11.202 or 11.203)) or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines theories of infrastructure from science and technology studies, history, economics, and anthropology in order to understand the prospects for change for many new and existing infrastructure systems. Examines how these theories are then implemented within systems in the modern city, including but not limited to, energy, water, transportation, and telecommunications infrastructure. Seminar is conducted with intensive group research projects, in-class discussions and debates.

D. Hsu

11.382 Water Diplomacy: The Science, Policy, and Politics of Managing Shared Resources

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the history and dynamics of international environmental treaty-making, or what is called environmental diplomacy. Emphasizes climate change and other atmospheric, marine resource, global waste management and sustainability-related treaties and the problems of implementing them. Reviews the legal, economic, and political dynamics of managing shared resources, involving civil society on a global basis, and enforcing transboundary agreements. Focuses especially on principles from international relations, international law, environmental management, and negotiation theory as they relate to common-pool resource management.

L. Susskind

11.383[J] People and Profits: Shaping the Future of Work

Same subject as 15.662[J]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-1-8 units

See description under subject 15.662[J].

A. Stansbury

11.387 Environmental Finance and Political Economy

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Examines the sociopolitical, cultural and economic dimensions of the financialization of environmental goods and services. Provides an introduction to key financial terms, practices, and institutions; analyzes the logics and origins of environmental finance, as well as the operation and implications of particular systems such as carbon-trading, REDD and ecosystem service pricing and swapping. Limited to 15.

J. Knox-Hayes

11.388[J] Dimensions of Geoengineering

Same subject as 1.850[J], 5.000[J], 10.600[J], 12.884[J], 15.036[J], 16.645[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall; first half of term)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-4 units

See description under subject 5.000[J]. Limited to 100.

J. Deutch, M. Zuber

11.401 Introduction to Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Subject meets with 11.041

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Provides a critical introduction to the shape and determinants of political, social, and economic inequality in America, with a focus on racial and economic justice. Explores the role of the city in visions of justice. Analyzes the historical, political, and institutional contexts of housing and community development policy in the US, including federalism, municipal fragmentation, and decentralized public financing. Introduces major dimensions in US housing policy, such as housing finance, public housing policy, and state and local housing affordability mechanisms. Reviews major themes in community economic development, including drivers of economic inequality, small business policy, employment policy, and cooperative economics. Expectations and evaluation criteria differ for students taking graduate version.

J. Steil

11.402 Urban Politics: Race and Political Change

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Examines the place of US cities in political theory and practice. Particular attention given to contemporary issues of racial polarization, demographic change, poverty, sprawl, and globalization. Specific cities are a focus for discussion.

J. P. Thompson

11.403 Urban China Research Seminar

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-7 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Examines the behavioral foundations and key policy issues of urban development, real estate markets, and sustainability in China. Discusses urban agglomeration economies, place-based investment, and urban vibrancy; economic geography of innovation and entrepreneurship; real estate dynamics and housing policies; land use and transportation; and urban quality of life and green cities, focusing on China but with some international comparisons.

S. Zheng

11.404 Housing Policy and Planning in the US and Abroad

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Explores the policy tools and planning techniques used to formulate and implement housing strategies at local, state and federal levels. Topics include America's housing finance system and the causes of instability in mortgage markets; economic and social inequity in access to affordable housing; approaches to meeting community housing needs through local and state planning programs; programs for addressing homelessness; and emerging ideas about sustainable development and green building related to housing development and renovation. Introduces comparative policy approaches from other countries.

Staff

11.405 Political Economy & Society

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-6 units

Focuses on the connection (or not) between mind (theory) and matter (lived experience). Examines basic tenets of classical and recent political economic theories and their explication in ideas of market economies, centrally planned economies, social market economies, and co-creative economies. Assesses theories according to their relation to the lived experiences of people in communities and workplaces.

*J. P. Thompson***11.407 Economic Development Planning and Policy**

Subject meets with 11.107

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Introduces tools and techniques in economic development planning. Extensive use of data collection, analysis, and display techniques. Students build interpretive intuition skills through user experience design activities and develop a series of memos summarizing the results of their data analysis. These are aggregated into a final report, and include the tools developed over the semester. Students taking graduate version will complete modified assignments focused on developing computer applications.

*A. Glasmeier***11.409 The Institutions of Modern Capitalism: States and Markets**

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

2-0-10 units

Investigates the relationship between states and markets in the evolution of modern capitalism. Critically assesses the rise of what Karl Polanyi and Albert Hirschman have referred to as "market society:" a powerful conceptual framework that views the development of modern capitalism not as an outcome of deterministic economic and technological forces, but rather as the result of contingent social and political processes. Exposes students to a range of conceptual tools and analytic frameworks through which to understand the politics of economic governance and to consider the extent to which societal actors can challenge its limits and imagine alternative possibilities. Sub-themes vary from year to year and have focused on racial capitalism, markets and morality, urban futures, and the global financial crisis. Limited to 25.

*J. Jackson***11.413 The Economic Approach to Cities and Environmental Sustainability**

Subject meets with 11.113

Prereq: 11.220, 14.300, or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Provides a systematic framework of the interplay (both tension and synergy) between urbanization and environmental sustainability from a global perspective. Enhances analytical reasoning and quantitative skills to assist evidence-based empirical study and policy design evaluation. Explores the causes and consequences of urban environmental quality dynamics, and provides econometric tools to quantify such relationships. Examines state-of-the-art research in this field by introducing empirical studies from both developing and developed countries (highlighting fast urbanization). Themes include urban production, households, transportation and form, as well as political economy and climate resilience. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*S. Zheng***11.422[J] Law, Technology, and Public Policy**

Same subject as 15.655[J], IDS.435[J]

Subject meets with 11.122[J], IDS.066[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

See description under subject IDS.435[J].

N. Ashford, C. Caldart

11.426 Urban Emergency Medical Services: Clinical, Operational, and Social Dimensions

Prereq: None
 G (Fall)
 Units arranged

Examines clinical, operational, and social dimensions of urban emergency medical services. Reviews triage and treatments in the field for major trauma and medical emergencies. Analyzes how to create a culture of safety in EMS and build skills in crew resource management. Analyzes social determinants of health, presents fundamentals of research design for EMS, and examines how EMS and community paramedicine can play roles in reducing racial disparities in health and advancing health equity. Designed to meet the National Continued Competency Program and Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services EMTB recertification requirements. Students can choose to take the subject for 6 units, which meets the recertification requirements, or 12 units. The 12-unit version includes additional homework and advising from the teaching team on research design in EMS and on creating new knowledge about EMS through original analysis EMS data.

J. Steil

11.427[J] Labor Markets and Employment Policy

Same subject as 15.677[J]
 Prereq: Permission of instructor
 Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered
 Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)
 3-0-9 units

See description under subject 15.677[J]. Preference to graduate and PhD students.

A. Stansbury

11.428 PropTech Ventures (New)

Prereq: None
 G (Fall)
 3-0-3 units

Showcases the real estate technology, or PropTech, landscape, through the presentation of recent disruptions in the real estate industry. Through a better understanding of the sector, students begin to develop entrepreneurial ideas and skills necessary to produce the PropTech ventures of the future. Focuses on PropTech that improves the way we buy, rent, sell, manage, construct, and design real estate to help make better investment and development decisions.

J. Scott, S. Weikal

11.429[J] Real Estate Markets: Macroeconomics

Same subject as 15.022[J]
 Prereq: 11.431[J] or permission of instructor
 G (Spring; first half of term)
 3-0-3 units

Applies the latest economic thinking and research to the task of analyzing aggregate real estate market time series, assessing risk, and developing forecasts. Presents the premise that because of capital durability and construction lags, real estate markets exhibit some degree of mean reversion and as such are at least partially predictable. Examines the extent and causes of market volatility across different markets and types of property. Long-term aggregate trends impacting the real estate sector, from demographics to technology, discussed. Limited to 30.

W. Wheaton

11.430[J] Leadership in Real Estate

Same subject as 15.941[J]
 Prereq: None
 Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered
 Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall; first half of term)
 3-0-3 units

Designed to help students deepen their understanding of leadership and increase self-awareness. They reflect on their authentic leadership styles and create goals and a learning plan to develop their capabilities. They also participate in activities to strengthen their "leadership presence" - the ability to authentically connect with people's hearts and minds. Students converse with classmates and industry leaders to learn from their insights, experiences, and advice. Limited to 15.

G. Schuck

11.431[J] Real Estate Finance and Investment

Same subject as 15.426[J]
 Prereq: Permission of instructor
 G (Fall)
 4-0-8 units

Concepts and techniques for analyzing financial decisions in commercial property development and investment. Topics include property income streams, discounted cash flow, equity valuation, leverage and income tax considerations, development projects, and joint ventures. An introduction to real estate capital markets as a source of financing is also provided. Limited to graduate students.

W. Torous

11.433[J] Real Estate Economics

Same subject as 15.021[J]

Prereq: 14.01, 15.010, or 15.011

G (Fall)

4-0-8 units

Develops an understanding of the fundamental economic factors that shape the market for real property, as well as the influence of capital markets in asset pricing. Analyzes of housing as well as commercial real estate. Covers demographic analysis, regional growth, construction cycles, urban land markets, and location theory as well as recent technology impacts. Exercises and modeling techniques for measuring and predicting property demand, supply, vacancy, rents, and prices.

A. Saiz

11.435 Mixed-Income Housing Development

Prereq: None

G (Spring; first half of term)

3-0-3 units

Provides an overview of affordable and mixed-income housing development for students who wish to understand the fundamental issues and requirements of urban scale housing development, and the process of planning, financing and developing such housing. Students gain practical experience assembling a mixed-income housing development proposal.

L. Reid, W. Monson

11.437 Financing Economic Development and Housing

Subject meets with 11.137

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

4-0-8 units

Studies financing tools and program models to support and promote local economic development and housing. Overview of public and private capital markets and financing sources helps illustrate market imperfections that constrain economic and housing development and increase race and class disparities. Explores federal housing and economic development programs as well as state and local public finance tools. Covers policies and program models. Investigates public finance practice to better understand how these finance programs affect other municipal operations. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 25.

J. Levine

11.438 Economic Development Planning

Prereq: 11.203, 11.220, and permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Focuses on the policy tools and planning techniques used to formulate and implement local economic development strategies. Includes an overview of economic development theory, discussion of major policy areas and practices employed to influence local economic development, a review of analytic tools to assess local economies and how to formulate strategy. Coursework includes formulation of a local economic development strategy for a client. Limited to 15.

K. Seidman

11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

4-0-11 units

Workshop explores the integration of economic development and physical planning interventions to revitalize urban commercial districts. Covers: an overview of the causes of urban business district decline, revitalization challenges, and the strategies to address them; the planning tools used to understand and assess urban Main Streets from both physical design and economic development perspectives; and the policies, interventions, and investments used to foster urban commercial revitalization. Students apply the theories, tools and interventions discussed in class to preparing a formal neighborhood commercial revitalization plan for a client business district. Limited to 15.

J. Levine

11.440 Housing and Social Stratification in the United States

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Investigates how housing — markets, policies, and individual and collective actions — stratifies society. Students develop structural frameworks to understand the processes of stratification. Grounding work and research in history, students identify the ways that housing markets and housing market interventions reflect, reinforce, and (occasionally) combat social inequities. Through extensive writing and rewriting, students frame their work in terms of overlapping crises, including gentrification, flight, shortage, and homelessness.

D. M. Buntten

11.441 Planning, Economic Development, and Municipal Public Finance

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Explores the relationship between municipal planning initiatives and local public finance. Introduces a variety of tools, including annual fiscal year budgeting, development of capital improvement plans, user fees, and local property taxation. Municipal powers to levy taxes on items such as meals, hotel rooms, and sales and their effects on land use decisions are analyzed. Tools for economic development, such as tax increment finance, explored in the context of the potential benefits and drawbacks of such tools for a local economy. Also explores how planners can encourage more inclusive budgeting decisions through tools such as participatory budgeting. Students complete a final project on a municipal finance tool and its relationship to local planning goals.

J. Levine

11.442 Geography of the Global Economy

Subject meets with 11.142

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Analyzes implications of economic globalization for communities, regions, international businesses and economic development organizations. Uses spatial analysis techniques to model the role of energy resources in shaping international political economy. Investigates key drivers of human, physical, and social capital flows and their roles in modern human settlement systems. Surveys contemporary models of industrialization and places them in geographic context. Connects forces of change with their implications for the distribution of wealth and human well-being. Looks backward to understand pre-Covid conditions and then returns to the present to understand how a global pandemic changes the world. Class relies on current literature and explorations of sectors. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

A. Glasmeier

11.449 Decarbonizing Urban Mobility

Subject meets with 11.149

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-3-6 units

Focuses on measuring and reducing emissions from passenger transportation. After examining travel, energy, and climate conditions, students review existing approaches to transport decarbonization. Evaluates new mobility technologies through their potential to contribute to (or delay) a zero emission mobility system. Students consider the policy tools required to achieve approaches to achieve change. Frames past and future emission reductions using an approach based on the Kaya Identity, decomposing past (and potential future) emissions into their component pieces. Seeks to enable students to be intelligent evaluators of approaches to transportation decarbonization and equip them with the tools to develop and evaluate policy measures relevant to their local professional challenges. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Zhao, A. Salzberg

11.450 Real Estate Development Building Systems

Prereq: None

G (Fall; first half of term)

2-0-1 units

Provides students with a concise overview of the range of building systems that are encountered in professional commercial real estate development practice in the USA. Focuses on the relationship between real estate product types, building systems, and the factors that real estate development professionals must consider when evaluating these products and systems for a specific development project. Surveys commercial building technology including Foundation, Structural, MEP/FP, Envelope, and Interiors systems and analyzes the factors that lead development professionals to select specific systems for specific product types. One or more field trips to active construction sites may be scheduled during non-class hours based on student availability.

Y. Tsipis

11.452 Planning against Evictions and Displacement

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Spring)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units

Combines state-of-the-art research on evictions and displacement globally (in the context of the global crisis of evictions, land grabbing, and gentrification) with the study of policy and practical responses to displacement, assisted by selected case studies. First half covers explanations about the mechanisms and drivers of displacement, while the second half introduces and evaluates policy and legal responses developed by many actors. Analyzes the use of UN and national standards on displacement as well as the use of tools such as the Eviction Impact Assessment Tool. Limited to 15 graduate students.

*B. Rajagopal***11.454 Big Data, Visualization, and Society**

Subject meets with 11.154

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Credit cannot also be received for 6.8530, 6.C35[], 6.C85[], 11.154, 11.C35[], 11.C85[]

Data visualizations communicate the insights found in data to non-technical audiences. Students develop technical skills to work with big data to expose societal issues and communicate the insights. Focuses on different topics each year. After framing that topic, the first half of the subject focuses on learning to analyze the data with Python. The second half of the subject focuses on learning web-based data visualization tools (JavaScript and D3). Students learn data storytelling concepts and produce web-based data visualizations for their final projects. Throughout, students learn ethical data practices. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*S. Williams***11.C85[] Interactive Data Visualization and Society**

Same subject as 6.C85[]

Subject meets with 6.C35[], 11.C35[]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-1-8 units

Credit cannot also be received for 6.8530, 11.154, 11.454

See description under subject 6.C85[].

*C. D'Ignazio, A. Satyanarayan, S. Williams***11.457 More than Data: Smart Cities, Big Data, Civic Technology and Policy**

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-6 units

Discussions of future directions in the 'smart cities' debate. Begins by framing the current smart city with past trends such as the efficient city movement of the 1930s and the Modernist city of the 1950s and 60s. Examines current trends in big data, civic apps, Code for America, the open data movement, DIY data collections devices, and their policy impacts.

*S. Williams***11.458 Crowd Sourced City: Civic Tech Prototyping**

Subject meets with 11.138

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Investigates the use of social media and digital technologies for planning and advocacy by working with actual planning and advocacy organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate prototype digital tools. Students use the development of their digital tools as a way to investigate new media technologies that can be used for planning. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*S. Williams, C. D'Ignazio***11.466[] Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development**

Same subject as 1.813[], 15.657[], IDS.437[]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

See description under subject IDS.437[].

N. Ashford

11.469 Urban Sociology in Theory and Practice

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Introduction to core writings in urban sociology. Explores the nature and changing character of the city and the urban experience, providing context for the development of urban studies research and planning skills. Topics include the changing nature of community, neighborhood effects, social capital and networks, social stratification, feminist theory and critical race theory, and the interaction of social structure and political power. Subject will take place in the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Norfolk with half of the class from MIT and half of the class from MCI-Norfolk. Limited to 25.

J. Steil

11.472[J] D-Lab: Development

Same subject as EC.781[J]

Subject meets with 11.025[J], EC.701[J]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-2-7 units

See description under subject EC.781[J]. Enrollment limited by lottery; must attend first class session.

S. L. Hsu, A. B. Smith, B. Sanyal

11.474 D-Lab: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Subject meets with EC.715

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Focuses on disseminating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) innovations in low-income countries and underserved communities worldwide. Structured around project-based learning, lectures, discussions, and student-led tutorials. Emphasizes core WASH principles, appropriate and sustainable technologies at household and community scales, urban challenges worldwide, culture-specific solutions, lessons from start-ups, collaborative partnerships, and social marketing. Mentored term project entails finding and implementing a viable solution focused on education/training; a technology, policy or plan; a marketing approach; and/or behavior change. Guest lecturers present case studies, emphasizing those developed and disseminated by MIT faculty, practitioners, students, and alumni. Field trips scheduled during class time, with optional field trips on weekends. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 20.

S. E. Murcott, S. L. Hsu

11.477[J] Urban Energy Systems and Policy

Same subject as 1.286[J]

Subject meets with 11.165

Prereq: 11.203, 14.01, or permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines efforts in developing and advanced nations and regions. Examines key issues in the current and future development of urban energy systems, such as technology, use, behavior, regulation, climate change, and lack of access or energy poverty. Case studies on a diverse sampling of cities explore how prospective technologies and policies can be implemented. Includes intensive group research projects, discussion, and debate.

D. Hsu

11.478 Behavioral Science, AI, and Urban Mobility

Subject meets with 11.158

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Integrates behavioral science, artificial intelligence, and transportation technology to shape travel behavior, design mobility systems and business, and reform transportation policies. Introduces methods to sense travel behavior with new technology and measurements; nudge behavior through perception and preference shaping; design mobility systems and ventures that integrate autonomous vehicles, shared mobility, and public transit; and regulate travel with behavior-sensitive transport policies. Challenges students to pilot behavioral experiments and design creative mobility systems, business and policies. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Zhao

11.480 Urbanization and Development

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Examines developmental dynamics of rapidly urbanizing locales, with a special focus on the developing world. Case studies from India, China, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa form the basis for discussion of social, spatial, political and economic changes in cities spurred by the decline of industry, the rise of services, and the proliferation of urban mega projects. Emphasizes the challenges of growing urban inequality, environmental risk, citizen displacement, insufficient housing, and the lack of effective institutions for metropolitan governance. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*Staff***11.484 Project Appraisal in Developing Countries**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Covers techniques of financial analysis of investment expenditures, as well as the economic and distributive appraisal of development projects. Critical analysis of these tools in the political economy of international development is discussed. Topics include appraisal's role in the project cycle, planning under conditions of uncertainty, constraints in data quality and the limits of rational analysis, and the coordination of an interdisciplinary appraisal team. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Enrollment limited; preference to majors.

*Y. Hong***11.485 Southern Urbanisms**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

2-0-10 units

Guides students in examining implicit and explicit values of diversity offered in "Southern" knowledge bases, theories, and practices of urban production. With a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, considers why the South-centered location of the estimated global urban population boom obligates us to examine how cities work as they do, and why Western-informed urban theory and planning scholarship may be ill-suited to provide guidance on urban development there. Examines the "rise of the rest" and its implications for the making and remaking of expertise and norms in planning practice. Students engage with seminal texts from leading authors of Southern urbanism and critical themes, including the rise of Southern theory, African urbanism, Chinese international cooperation, Brazilian urban diplomacy, and the globally-driven commodification of urban real estate.

*G. Carolini***11.486 Peace and Conflict Geographies**

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Explores the spatialization of conflict and peace from perspectives within the humanities and social sciences. Examines claims on territory, resources, and homeland; traces the legacies of violence in landscapes both personal and public; considers the use of planning and architecture to build peace; and attends to experiences of displacement and dispossession. Discusses how conflict and peace geographies provide insight into various scales of power and repair that shape how individuals live together.

D. Wendel

11.487 Budgeting and Finance for the Public Sector

Subject meets with 11.147

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Examines globally relevant challenges of adequately and effectively attending to public sector responsibilities for basic services with limited resources. Particular attention to the contexts of fiscal crises and rapid population growth, as well as shrinkage, through an introduction to methods and processes of budgeting, accounting, and financial mobilization. Case studies and practice exercises explore revenue strategies, demonstrate fiscal analytical competencies, and familiarize students with pioneering examples of promising budget and accounting processes and innovative funding mobilization via taxation, capital markets, and other mechanisms (e.g., land-value capture). Students taking graduate version explore the subject in greater depth.

G. Carolini

11.490 Law and Development

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-10 units

Examines the role of law in development and introduces economic and legal theories. Topics include formality/informality of property, contracts and bargaining in the shadow of the law, institutions for transparency and accountability, legitimation of law, sequencing of legal reform, and international economic law aspects. Studies the roles of property rights in economic development, the judiciary and the bureaucracy in development, and law in aid policy. Includes selected country case studies. Limited to 15.

B. Rajagopal

11.493 Property and Land Use Law for Planners

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

3-0-9 units

Examines legal and institutional arrangements for the establishment, transfer, and control over property and land under American and selected comparative systems, including India and South Africa. Focuses on key issues of property and land use law regarding planning and economic development. Emphasizes just and efficient resource use; institutional, entitlement and social relational approaches to property; distributional and other social aspects; and the relationship between property, culture, and democracy.

B. Rajagopal

11.494 Cities of Contested Memory

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Explores relationships between built environments and memory to consider the spaces and spatial practices in which the future of the past is imagined, negotiated, and contested. Focuses on three areas of critical importance to understanding the nature of memory in cities today: the threats that rapid urban development pose to the remembrance of urban pasts; the politics of representation evident in debates over authorized and marginalized historical narratives; and the art and ethics of sensitively addressing the afterlives of violence and tragedy. Emphasizes group discussions and projects as means to explore collective and counter memories, the communities that are formed therein, and the economic, social, and political forces that lift up certain memories over others to shape the legacy of the past. Limited to 15.

D. Wendel

11.495 Governance and Law in Developing Countries

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-0-10 units

Examines the multiple dimensions of governance in international development with a focus on the role of legal norms and institutions in the balance between state and the market. Analyzes changes in the distribution of political and legal authority as a result of economic globalization. Topics include the regulation of firms; forms of state and non-state monitoring; varieties of capitalism, global governance and development; and good governance, including transparency and accountability mechanisms, the role of the judiciary and legal culture, and tools for measuring governance performance.

B. Rajagopal

11.496 Law, Social Movements, and Public Policy: Comparative and International Experience

Subject meets with 11.166

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Studies the interaction between law, courts, and social movements in shaping domestic and global public policy. Examines how groups mobilize to use law to affect change and why they succeed and fail. Case studies explore the interplay between law, social movements, and public policy in current issues, such as gender, race, labor, trade, climate change/environment, and LGBTQ rights. Introduces theories of public policy, social movements, law and society, and transnational studies. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15.

B. Rajagopal

11.497 Human Rights at Home and Abroad

Subject meets with 11.164[[]], 17.391[[]]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: G (Fall)

Acad Year 2025-2026: Not offered

2-0-10 units

Provides a rigorous and critical introduction to the history, foundation, structure, and operation of the human rights movement. Focuses on key ideas, actors, methods and sources, and critically evaluates the field. Addresses current debates in human rights, including the relationship with security, democracy, development and globalization, urbanization, equality (in housing and other economic and social rights; women's rights; ethnic, religious and racial discrimination; and policing/conflict), post-conflict rebuilding and transitional justice, and technology in human rights activism. Students taking graduate version expected to write a research paper.

B. Rajagopal

11.499 Master of Science in Real Estate Development Thesis Preparation

Prereq: None

G (Spring; first half of term)

2-0-1 units

Designed to give students the tools and information needed to successfully complete a master's level thesis. Seminar topics include, but are not limited to: research data sets, different types and styles of theses, the writing and editing process, library services, and the use of humans as experimental subjects in research. CRE faculty share their areas of interest to assist in choosing an advisor. Seminar assignments guide students toward developing a thesis topic and realistic work plan to adequately achieve their research and writing goals. Objective is for each student to have sufficient knowledge to author a fully developed thesis topic and formal proposal by the end of the term. Limited to MS in Real Estate Development candidates.

A. Saiz

11.520 Workshop on Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Prereq: 11.205 or permission of instructor

G (Fall, Spring; second half of term)

2-2-2 units

Includes spatial analysis exercises using real-world data sets, building toward an independent project in which students critically apply GIS techniques to an area of interest. Students build data discovery, cartography, and spatial analysis skills while learning to reflect on power and positionality within the research design process. Tailored to GIS applications within planning and design and emphasizes the role of reflective practice in GIS. Enrollment limited; preference to MCP students.

S. Williams, C. D'Ignazio, E. Huntley

11.521 Spatial Database Management and Advanced Geographic Information Systems

Prereq: 11.205 and *Coreq: 11.220*; or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-3-6 units

Extends the computing and geographic information systems (GIS) skills developed in 11.520 to include spatial data management in client/server environments and advanced GIS techniques. First half covers the content of 11.523, introducing database management concepts, SQL (Structured Query Language), and enterprise-class database management software. Second half explores advanced features and the customization features of GIS software that perform analyses for decision support that go beyond basic thematic mapping. Includes the half-term GIS project of 11.524 that studies a real-world planning issue.

J. Ferreira

11.522 Research Seminar on Urban Information Systems

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall)

Not offered regularly; consult department

2-4-6 units

Can be repeated for credit.

Advanced research seminar enhances computer and analytic skills developed in other subjects in this sequence. Students present a structured discussion of journal articles representative of their current research interests involving urban information systems and complete a short research project. Suggested research projects include topics related to ongoing UIS Group research.

J. Ferreira

11.523 Fundamentals of Spatial Database Management

Prereq: 11.205 or permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall; first half of term)

2-2-2 units

Develops technical skills necessary to design, build, and interact with spatial databases using the Structured Query Language (SQL) and its spatial extensions. Provides instruction in writing highly contextual metadata (data biographies). Prepares students to perform database maintenance, modeling, and digitizing tasks, and to critically evaluate and document data sources. Databases are implemented in PostgreSQL and PostGIS; students interface with these using QGIS.

E. Huntley

11.524 Advanced Geographic Information System Project

Prereq: (11.205 and 11.220) or permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall; second half of term)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Provides instruction in statistical approaches for analyzing interrelation, clustering, and interdependence, which are often key to understanding urban environments. Covers local and global spatial autocorrelation, interpolation, and kernel density methods; cluster detection; and spatial regression models. Develops technical skills necessary to ask spatial questions using inferential statistics implemented in the R statistical computing language. Prior coursework or experience in geographic information systems (GIS) at the introductory level required; prior coursework or experience in R is preferred.

E. Huntley

11.526[] Comparative Land Use and Transportation Planning

Same subject as 1.251[]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Focuses on the integration of land use and transportation planning, drawing from cases in both industrialized and developing countries. Highlights how land use and transportation influence the social organization of cities, assigning privileges to certain groups and segregating or negating access to the city to other groups. Covers topics such as accessibility; the use of data, algorithms, and bias; travel demand and travel behavior; governance; transit-oriented development; autonomous vehicles; transportation and real estate; and social, environmental, and health implications of land use and transportation. Develops students' skills to assess relevant policies, interventions, and impacts.

F. Duarte

11.529[] Mobility Ventures: Driving Innovation in Transportation Systems

Same subject as 15.379[]

Subject meets with 11.029[], 15.3791[]

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-3-6 units

Explores technological, behavioral, policy, and systems-wide frameworks for innovation in transportation systems, complemented with case studies across the mobility spectrum, from autonomous vehicles to urban air mobility to last-mile sidewalk robots. Students interact with a series of guest lecturers from CEOs and other business and government executives who are actively reshaping the future of mobility. Interdisciplinary teams of students collaborate to deliver business plans for proposed mobility-focused startups with an emphasis on primary market research. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

J. Zhao, J. Moavenzadeh, J. Larios Berlin

11.540 Urban Transportation Planning and Policy

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Examines transportation policymaking and planning; its relationship to social and environmental justice; and the influences of politics, governance structures, and human and institutional behavior. Explores the pathway to infrastructure, how attitudes are influenced, and how change happens. Examines the tensions and potential synergies among traditional transportation policy values of individual mobility, system efficiency, and "sustainability." Explores the roles of the government; analysis of current trends; transport sector decarbonization; land use, placemaking, and sustainable mobility networks; the role of "mobility as a service;" and the implications of disruptive technology on personal mobility. Assesses traditional planning methods with a critical eye, and through that process considers how to approach transportation planning in a way that responds to contemporary needs and values, with an emphasis on transport justice.

*J. Aloisi***11.543[J] Transportation Policy, the Environment, and Livable Communities**

Same subject as 1.253[J]

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Examines the economic and political conflict between transportation and the environment. Investigates the role of government regulation, green business and transportation policy as a facilitator of economic development and environmental sustainability. Analyzes a variety of international policy problems, including government-business relations, the role of interest groups, non-governmental organizations, and the public and media in the regulation of the automobile; sustainable development; global warming; politics of risk and siting of transport facilities; environmental justice; equity; as well as transportation and public health in the urban metropolis. Provides students with an opportunity to apply transportation and planning methods to develop policy alternatives in the context of environmental politics. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

*J. Coughlin***11.544[J] Transportation: Foundations and Methods**

Same subject as 1.200[J], IDS.675[J]

Subject meets with 1.041[J], IDS.075[J]

Prereq: 1.000, (1.00 and 1.010), or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-1-8 units

See description under subject 1.200[J].

*C. Wu***11.547[J] Global Aging & the Built Environment**

Same subject as SCM.287[J]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Combines classroom lectures/discussion, readings, site visits, and field study to provide students with experience in various research techniques including stakeholder analysis, interviewing, photography and image analysis, focus groups, etc. Students examine the impacts of global demographic transition, when there are more older than younger people in a population, and explore emerging challenges in the built environment (e.g., age-friendly community planning, public transportation access, acceptance of driverless cars, social wellbeing and connectivity, housing and community design, design and use of public and private spaces, and the public health implications of climate change and aging).

*J. F. Coughlin***11.592 Renewable Energy Facility Siting Clinic**

Subject meets with 11.092

Prereq: None

G (Fall, Spring)

2-4-6 units

Presents methods for resolving facility siting disputes, particularly those involving renewable energy. After completing four modules and a competency exam for MITx certification, students work in teams to help client communities in various cities around the United States. Through direct interactions with the proponents and opponents of facilities subject to local opposition, students complete a stakeholder assessment and offer joint fact-finding and collaborative problem-solving assistance. The political, legal, financial, and regulatory aspects of facility siting, particularly for renewable energy, are reviewed along with key infrastructure planning principles. Students taking the graduate version complete additional assignments. Limited to 15.

L. Susskind

11.601 Theory and Practice of Environmental Planning

Prereq: None

G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Required introductory subject for graduate students pursuing the Environmental Planning Certificate. Strongly suggested for MCP students pursuing EPP as their specialization. Also open to other graduate students interested in environmental justice, environmental ethics, environmental dispute resolution, and techniques of environmental problem-solving. Taught comparatively, with numerous references to examples from around the world. Four major areas of focus: national environmental policymaking, environmental ethics, environmental forecasting and analysis techniques, and strategies for collaborative decision-making.

L. Susskind

11.630[] Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Prevention and Control

Same subject as 1.811[], 15.663[], IDS.540[]

Subject meets with 1.801[], 11.021[], 17.393[], IDS.060[]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

Analyzes federal and state regulation of air and water pollution, hazardous waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and production/use of toxic chemicals. Analyzes pollution/climate change as economic problems and failure of markets. Explores the role of science and economics in legal decisions. Emphasizes use of legal mechanisms and alternative approaches (i.e., economic incentives, voluntary approaches) to control pollution and encourage chemical accident and pollution prevention. Focuses on major federal legislation, underlying administrative system, and common law in analyzing environmental policy, economic consequences, and role of the courts. Discusses classical pollutants and toxic industrial chemicals, greenhouse gas emissions, community right-to-know, and environmental justice. Develops basic legal skills: how to read/understand cases, regulations, and statutes. Students taking graduate version explore the subject in greater depth.

N. Ashford, C. Caldart

11.631[] Regulation of Chemicals, Radiation, and Biotechnology

Same subject as 1.812[], IDS.541[]

Subject meets with 1.802[], 10.805[], 11.022[], IDS.061[], IDS.436[]

Prereq: IDS.540[] or permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

3-0-9 units

Focuses on policy design and evaluation in the regulation of hazardous substances and processes. Includes risk assessment, industrial chemicals, pesticides, food contaminants, pharmaceuticals, radiation and radioactive wastes, product safety, workplace hazards, indoor air pollution, biotechnology, victims' compensation, and administrative law. Health and economic consequences of regulation, as well as its potential to spur technological change, are discussed for each regulator regime. Students taking the graduate version are expected to explore the subject in greater depth.

N. Ashford, C. Caldart

11.651[] USA Lab: Bridging the American Divides

Same subject as 15.679[]

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

3-1-5 units

See description under subject 15.679[].

L. Hafrey, C. McDowell

11.652[] Research Seminar on Technology and the Work of the Future

Same subject as STS.465[]

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Spring)

3-0-9 units

See description under subject STS.465[]. Limited to 15.

D. Mindell, E. B. Reynolds

11.701 International Development Planning: Foundations

Prereq: None

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall)

3-0-9 units

Offers a survey of the histories and theories of international development, and the main debates about the role of key actors and institutions in development. Includes a focus on the impact of colonialism, the main theoretical approaches that have influenced the study and practice of development, as well as the role of actors such as states, markets, and civil society in development. Focuses on the interactions between interventions and institutions on local, national, and global/transnational scales. Offers an opportunity to develop a focus on selected current topics in development planning, such as migration, displacement, participatory planning, urban-rural linkages, corruption, legal institutions, and post-conflict development. Restricted to first-year MCP and SPURS students.

*B. Rajagopal***Tutorials, Research, and Fieldwork Subjects****11.800 Reading, Writing and Research**

Prereq: 11.233; Coreq: 11.801

G (Spring)

3-0-6 units

Required subject intended solely for 1st-year DUSP PhD students. Develops capacity of doctoral students to become independent scholars by helping them to prepare their first-year papers and plan for their dissertation work. Focuses on the process by which theory, research questions, literature reviews, and new data are synthesized into new and original contributions to the literature. Seminar is conducted with intensive discussions, draft writing, peer review, revisions, and editing. Guest speakers from faculty and advanced students discuss strategies and potential pitfalls with doctoral-level research.

*M. Arcaya***11.801 Doctoral Research Paper**

Prereq: None. Coreq: 11.800; permission of instructor

G (Spring)

3-0-6 units

Students develop a first-year research paper in consultation with their advisor.

*Staff***11.901 Independent Study: Urban Studies and Planning**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member.

*Staff***11.902 Independent Study: Urban Studies and Planning**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member.

*Staff***11.903 Supervised Readings in Urban Studies**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Reading and discussion of topics in urban studies and planning.

*Staff***11.904 Supervised Readings in Urban Studies**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Reading and discussion of topics in urban studies and planning.

*Staff***11.905 Research Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Special research issues in urban planning.

Staff

11.906 Research Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Special research issues in urban planning.
Staff

11.907 Urban Fieldwork

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Practical application of planning techniques to towns, cities, and regions, including problems of replanning, redevelopment, and renewal of existing communities. Includes internships, under staff supervision, in municipal and state agencies and departments.
Staff

11.908 Urban Fieldwork

Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Practical application of planning techniques to towns, cities, and regions, including problems of replanning, redevelopment, and renewal of existing communities. Includes internships, under staff supervision, in municipal and state agencies and departments.
Staff

11.909 Graduate Tutorial

Prereq: None
G (Fall)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Planned programs of instruction for a minimum of three students on a planning topic not covered in regular subjects of instruction. Registration subject to prior arrangement with appropriate faculty member.
Staff

11.910 Doctoral Tutorial

Prereq: None
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-3 units

Required subject exclusively for first-year DUSP PhD candidates, but with multiple colloquium sessions open to the full department community. Introduces students to a range of department faculty (and others) by offering opportunities to discuss applications of planning theory and planning history. Assists in clarifying the departments intellectual diversity. Encourages development of a personal intellectual voice and capacity to synthesize and respond to the arguments made by others.
L. Vale, J. Zhao

11.912[J] Advanced Urbanism Colloquium

Same subject as 4.275[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
1-1-1 units
Can be repeated for credit.

See description under subject 4.275[J]. Preference to doctoral students in the Advanced Urbanism concentration.
Consult S. Williams

11.919 PhD Workshop

Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring)
0-1-0 units
Can be repeated for credit.

The workshop features doctoral student progress on dissertation formulation and findings across all years, panels of particular interest to doctoral students as identified by their representatives on the PhD Committee, and an intellectual space for the sharing of ideas and initiatives within the doctoral community and across the department, including faculty. Limited to all doctoral students in residence.
G. Carolini

11.920 Planning in Practice

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Familiarizes students with the practice of planning, by requiring actual experience in professional internship placements. Enables students to both apply what they are learning in their classes in an actual professional setting and to reflect, using a variety of platforms, on the learning -- personal and professional -- growing out of their internship experience. Through readings, practical experience and reflection, empirical observation, and contact with practitioners, students gain deeper general understanding of the practice of the profession.

*M. J. Daly***11.930 Advanced Seminar on Planning Theory**

Prereq: None

G (Spring)

2-0-10 units

Introduces students to key debates in the field of planning theory, drawing on historical development of the field of urban/regional/national planning from 1900 to 2020 in both the US and in newly industrializing countries. Class objectives are for students to develop their own theory of action as they become sensitized to issues of racial and gender discrimination in city building, and understand how planning styles are influenced by a range of issues, including the challenge of ethical practice.

*B. Sanyal***11.960 Independent Study: Real Estate**

Prereq: None

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member.

*Staff***11.961 Independent Study: Real Estate**

Prereq: None

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member.

*Staff***11.962 Fieldwork: Real Estate**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Practical application of real estate techniques in the field.

*Staff***11.963 Independent Study: Real Estate**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member.

*Staff***11.964 Independent Study: Real Estate**

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Opportunity for independent study under regular supervision by a faculty member.

*Staff***11.985 Summer Field Work**

Prereq: None

G (Summer)

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Practical application of planning techniques over the summer with prior arrangement.

*S. Wellford***11.938 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning**

Prereq: None

G (Fall, IAP, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S939 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring; second half of term)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S940-11.S944 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

M. Kothari

11.S948 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S945-11.S949 Special Subject: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S950-11.S957 Special Seminar: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction

Staff

11.S958 Special Seminar: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S959 Special Seminar: Urban Studies and Planning

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of urban studies and city and regional planning not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S964 Special Seminar: Real Estate

Prereq: None
G (Spring; first half of term)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

M. Srivastava

11.S965 Special Subject: Real Estate

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring; second half of term)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S966 Special Subject: Real Estate

Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall; second half of term)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S967 Special Subject: Real Estate

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring; first half of term)

Not offered regularly; consult department

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S968 Special Seminar: Real Estate

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Not offered regularly; consult department

Units arranged [P/D/F]

Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S969 Special Seminar: Real Estate

Prereq: Permission of instructor

Acad Year 2024-2025: Not offered

Acad Year 2025-2026: G (Fall, Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Staff

11.S970 Special Seminar: Real Estate

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Spring)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Small group study of advanced subjects under staff supervision. For graduate students wishing to pursue further study in advanced areas of real estate not covered in regular subjects of instruction.

Consult Catalog Faculty

11.THG Graduate Thesis

Prereq: Permission of instructor

G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)

Units arranged

Can be repeated for credit.

Program of research and writing of thesis; to be arranged by the student with supervising committee.

Staff