History and Theory Concentration
Advisor: Neil Brenner
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Other Concentration Faculty:
Eve Blau, Diane Davis, Michael Hooper, Jerold S. Kayden, Peter Rowe

Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

This concentration is intended for students who have a strong interest in theoretical questions related to cities, urbanization, urbanism and urban planning, whether in historical or contemporary contexts. It may also be of particular interest to those considering a future doctorate in urban planning or an associated discipline. The concentration is designed to foster critical thinking regarding the social, economic, political and spatial processes that have produced urbanized built environments, and their consequences for everyday life, social reproduction, politics, and environmental conditions. The courses also explore the ways in which planners and policy-makers attempt to influence such processes and their consequences at various spatial scales.

Please note that course offerings often change, and new courses may be offered while these recommended courses may not be offered each year. This memo is subject to change depending on the availability of courses. Other courses may be approved with the permission of the Concentration Advisor.

Approved courses include:

Fall
At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 4105 Studies of the Built North American Environment 1580 to the Present Stilgoe
GSD 4304 North American Seacoasts and Landscapes: Discovery Period to the Present Stilgoe
GSD 4329 Urbanization in the East Asian Region Rowe
GSD 4362 Structuring Urban Experience: From the Athenian Acropolis to the Boston Common Smith
GSD 4121 Buildings, Texts and Contexts I Naginski, Holder
GSD 4141 Histories of Landscape Architecture Eigen
GSD 5210 Cities by Design I Rowe
GSD 5486 There Goes the Neighborhood: Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Change Griffin
At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
FAS SOC-WORLD 51 Politics of Nature \hspace{2cm} Subramanian
FAS HIST 82b Fin-de-Siècle Vienna \hspace{2cm} Johnson
FAS GOV 2034 Ethics, Economics, and Law \hspace{2cm} Sandel
FAS GOV 2310 Social Capital and Public Affairs \hspace{2cm} Putnam

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.308J Advanced Seminar: Ecological Urbanism \hspace{2cm} Spirn
MIT 11.497 Human Rights at Home and Abroad \hspace{2cm} Rajagopal
MIT 11.013J American Urban History \hspace{2cm} Fogelson
MIT 11.014J History of the Built Environment in the US \hspace{2cm} Fogelson
MIT 11.5942 Wanderings in Psychogeography: Exploring Landscapes of History, Biography, Law, Nature, Poetry, Surreality, Fantasy \hspace{2cm} Glenn
MIT 11.236 Theory of Participatory Action Research \hspace{2cm} Cunningham, Kaufer
MIT 11.5943 Development, Planning and Implementation: Dialectic of Theory and Practice \hspace{2cm} Sanyal

At the Kennedy School of Government:
HKS DPI-401 Institutions and Development \hspace{2cm} Sheely

Spring
(Note that Spring course listings will be updated once the catalog is completed)

At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 2483 Projection-Animation \hspace{2cm} Wodiczko
GSD 3242 Theories of Landscape Architecture \hspace{2cm} Berrizbeitia, TBD
GSD 3302 Designing the American City: Civic Aspirations and Urban Form \hspace{2cm} Krieger
GSD 4122 Buildings, Texts, and Contexts II \hspace{2cm} Eigen
GSD 4132 Film Theory, Visual Thinking \hspace{2cm} Bruno
GSD 4142 Histories of Landscape Architecture II: Design Representation, Use \hspace{2cm} Duempelmann
GSD 4344 Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China \hspace{2cm} Rowe
GSD 5211 Cities by Design II \hspace{2cm} Various
GSD 9133 Urban Theory Lab Research Seminar \hspace{2cm} Brenner

At the Kennedy School of Government:
HKS SUP-207 Social Structure and Culture in the Study of Race and Urban Poverty \hspace{2cm} Wilson, Quane
HKS DPI-216 Democratic Theory \hspace{2cm} Mansbridge

At the Law School:
HLS 2181 Local Government Law \hspace{2cm} Frug
At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
FAS AFRAMER 174 The African City
FAS EAST ASIA 121 Global Cities in East Asia
FAS AFRAMER 125X Urban Inequality after Civil Rights
FAS COMPLIT 256 Archaeology of Modernity and Visual Culture
FAS FRENCH 167 Parisian Cityscapes: 1960-Present
(Note: conducted in French)
FAS HIST 1971 Time and Place in the History of American Capitalism
FAS SOCIOL 314 Workshop on Urban Social Processes

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.330J The Making of Cities
MIT 11.334J Advanced Seminar in Landscape and Urbanism

Not Currently Offered
GSD 2482 Art, Design and the Public Domain
HKS DPI-312 Sparking Social Change in a Dynamic World
FAS HIST 1973 North American Cities
FAS ANTHRO 2682 Anthropology of Urbanism: Japan in Comparative Perspective
FAS SOCIOL 314 Workshop on Urban Social Processes
HLS 2181 Local Government Law
GSD 3336 Design Anthropology: Objects, Landscapes, Cities
GSD 3241 Theories of Landscape as Urbanism, Landscape
GSD 4423 The Shapes of Utopia

As Infrastructure: Paradigms, Practices, Prospects*