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
GSD 4304: North American Seacoasts and Landscapes: Discovery Period to the Present
GSD 4329: Urbanization in the East Asian Region
GSD 4362: Structuring Urban Experience: From the Athenian Acropolis to the Boston Common
GSD 4121: Buildings, Texts and Contexts I
GSD 4141: Histories of Landscape Architecture
GSD 5210: Cities by Design I
GSD 5486: There Goes the Neighborhood: Perceptions and Realities of Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Change
At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
FAS SOC-WORLD 51: Politics of Nature Subramanian
FAS HIST 82b: Fin-de-Siècle Vienna Johnson
FAS GOV 2034: Ethics, Economics, and Law Sandel
FAS GOV 2310: Social Capital and Public Affairs Putnam

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.308J: Advanced Seminar: Ecological Urbanism Spirn
MIT 11.497: Human Rights at Home and Abroad Rajagopal
MIT 11.013J: American Urban History Fogelson
MIT 11.014J: History of the Built Environment in the US Fogelson
MIT 11.236: Theory of Participatory Action Research Cunningham, Kaufer
MIT 11.S943: Development, Planning and Implementation: Dialectic of Theory and Practice Sanyal

At the Kennedy School of Government:
HKS DPI-401: Institutions and Development Sheely

Spring
At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 2483: Projection-Animation Wodiczko
GSD 3242: Theories of Landscape Architecture Berrizbeitia, TBD
GSD 3302: Designing the American City: Civic Aspirations and Urban Form Krieger
GSD 4122: Buildings, Texts, and Contexts II Naginski
GSD 4132: Film Theory, Visual Thinking Bruno
GSD 4142: Histories of Landscape Architecture II: Design Representation, Use Duempelmann
GSD 4344: Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China Rowe
GSD 5211: Cities by Design II Gray

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

At the Law School:
HLS 2181: Local Government Law Frug

At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
Please consult with your concentration advisor for approval of courses
At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.330J: The Making of Cities  
Jacobi, Segal
MIT 11.334J: Advanced Seminar in Landscape and Urbanism  
Berger

Not Currently Offered
GSD 2482: Art, Design and the Public Domain  
Wodiczko
GSD 3241: Theories of Landscape as Urbanism, Landscape as Infrastructure: Paradigms, Practices, Prospects  
Belanger
GSD 3336: Design Anthropology: Objects, Landscapes, Cities  
Doherty, Caton
GSD 4423: The Shapes of Utopia  
Naginski
GSD 9133: Urban Theory Lab Research Seminar  
Brenner
HKS DPI-312: Sparking Social Change in a Dynamic World  
Moore, Bildner
FAS AFRAMER 174: The African City  
Blier
FAS AFRAMER 125X: Urban Inequality after Civil Rights  
Hinton
FAS ANTHRO 2682: Anthropology of Urbanism: Japan in Comparative Perspective  
Bestor
FAS COMPLIT 256: Archaeology of Modernity and Visual Culture  
TBA
FAS EASTD 121: Global Cities in East Asia  
Dillon
FAS FRENCH 167: Parisian Cityscapes: 1960-Present  
(Noite: conducted in French)
Conley
FAS HIST 1971: Time and Place in the History of American Capitalism  
Iyer
FAS HIST 1973: North American Cities  
Neumann
FAS SOCIOL 314: Workshop on Urban Social Processes  
Sampson

Updated: December 12, 2017