

Cities in the 21st Century

People, Planning, and Politics

Explore how geography, politics, and culture affect whether people can thrive in cities.

Coursework

Urban Politics and Development

DVST 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Understanding the political process and its role in urban development is central to comprehending how cities work and grow. Who exercises power in cities and what are their sources of power? What is the structure of cities and how does this enhance or impede their growth? What is the role of state and local government in formulating development policies in a changing world economy? What challenges are faced by public policymakers and other stakeholders? This course will examine a variety of structural elements and processes including government structures, relationships between city and regional institutions, privatization, community development, economic growth, industrial restructuring, technological change, workforce development, the informal economy, and poverty and income distribution.

Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments

URST 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

What are the intentional and natural forces that guide the development of the world's cities? How has urban planning attempted to guide these forces toward a prosperous and equitable reality? This course explores the networks that sustain dense human habitation. As the pace of urbanization increases around the world, the process of modernization and globalization appears to destroy traditional, environmentally sustainable systems of land and energy use. Are there alternatives that provide contemporary, environmentally conscious approaches for urban habitation? In response to rapid automobilization and de-densification of cities around the globe, are planners having any success at choreographing the development of city systems and services in equitable and holistically sustainable ways? The course examines themes such as urbanization patterns,

land control, infrastructure, and sustainability to understand the role of planning and planners in shaping urban environments.

Culture and Society of World Cities

ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

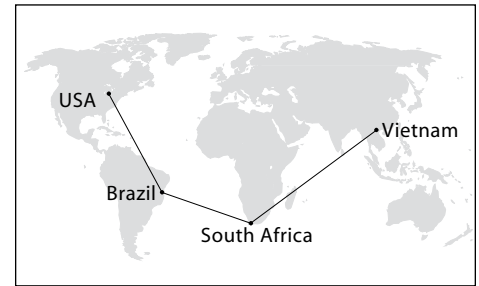
How do people identify and construct boundaries for various social groupings (race, class, ethnicity, gender, and locality)? What strategies do people use to adapt to living in cities? How do neighborhoods become distinctive? What are the celebrations and festivals? Who participates in each? What are the sources of information on these social categories and symbolic activities? This course examines how these elements combine to form the rich layers of multicultural urban society, how communities are structured and destroyed, and how values relate to urban life. An emphasis is placed on how anthropologists have adjusted their research methods in response to the study of urban life. Specific focus is placed on providing students with the tools necessary to conduct preliminary fieldwork in urban areas.

Contemporary Urban Issues: Problems and Solutions

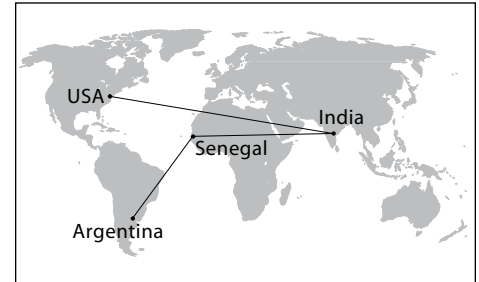
URST 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours

Are today's headlines a fleeting concern or a clue to understanding broad forces at work—forces that define the lives of the people in the cities and countries the program visits? Throughout the program, a broad spectrum of contemporary topics will be presented. In each city, topics of special significance to that city will be examined in depth through lectures, field visits, and Case Studies. In this course, students have an opportunity to pursue individual comparative research on topics of their own choosing. The course is co-taught by all program faculty to emphasize the multidisciplinary analysis of issues and integrate the experience-based learning of the semester.

IHP/COMPARATIVE



Fall



Spring

Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 17 weeks

Program Sites

Fall: Detroit, Sao Paulo, Cape Town, Hanoi

Spring: New York, Delhi, Dakar, Buenos Aires

Homestays Fall: Sao Paulo, 3–4 weeks; Cape Town, 3–4 weeks; Hanoi, 3–4 weeks

Spring: Delhi, 3–4 weeks; Dakar, 3–4 weeks; Buenos Aires, 3–4 weeks

Other Accommodations Hotels or hostels

Prerequisites None, but previous college-level coursework and/or other preparation in urban studies, anthropology, political science, or other related fields is strongly recommended.

NORTH AFRICA / THE MIDDLE EAST

ASIA / THE PACIFIC

EUROPE

LATIN AMERICA

IHP / COMPARATIVE