History and Theory Concentration
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Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
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 3241 Theories of Landscape as Urbanism, Landscape Belanger
As Infrastructure: Paradigms, Practices, Prospects*
GSD 4329 Urbanization in the East Asian Region Rowe
GSD 4362 Structuring Urban Experience: From the Athenian Smith
Acropolis to the Boston Common
GSD 4423 The Shapes of Utopia Naginski
GSD 5210 Cities by Design I Rowe
GSD 5486 There Goes the Neighborhood: Perceptions and Griffin
Realities of Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Change

*Requires permission of instructor

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 11.497 Human Rights in Theory and Practice  Rajagopal

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

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  Eigen
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  Various
GSD 9133 Urban Theory Lab Research Seminar  Brenner

At the Kennedy School of Government:
HKS SUP-207 Social Structure and Culture in the Study of Race and Urban Poverty  Wilson
HKS DPI-216 Democratic Theory  Mansbridge
HKS DPI-401 Institutions and Development  Sheely

At the Law School:
HLS 2181 Local Government Law  Frug

At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
FAS AFRAMER 174 The African City  Blier
FAS EAST ASIA 121 Global Cities in East Asia  Dillon
FAS AFRAMER 125X Urban Inequality after Civil Rights  Hinton
FAS COMPLIT 256 Archaeology of Modernity and Visual Culture  TBA
FAS FRENCH 167 Parisian Cityscapes: 1960-Present  Conley
(Note: conducted in French)
FAS HIST 1971 Time and Place in the History of American Capitalism  Iyer
FAS SOCIOL 314 Workshop on Urban Social Processes  Sampson

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.330J The Making of Cities  Beinart
MIT 11.334J Advanced Seminar in Landscape and Urbanism  Berger
Not Currently Offered
GSD 2482 Art, Design and the Public Domain       Wodiczko
HKS DPI-312 Sparking Social Change in a Dynamic World   Moore, Bildner
FAS HIST 1973 North American Cities                Neumann
FAS ANTHRO 2682 Anthropology of Urbanism: Japan in Comparative Perspective Bestor
FAS SOCIOL 314 Workshop on Urban Social Processes Sampson
HLS 2181 Local Government Law                      Su
GSD 3336 Design Anthropology: Objects, Landscapes, Cities Doherty, Caton

Updated: August 2, 2016