International Planning Concentration

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Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

This concentration within the MUP program is intended to provide a solid professional and academic preparation in international planning. The concentration responds to three global concerns. The first is the increasing prominence of urbanization as a major political, economic and social force in world affairs. As of 2010, for the first time in our species’ history, more than half of the world’s population now lives in cities. This fundamental change in the pattern of global human settlement raises unprecedented challenges for the planning, design and management of cities and their hinterlands. The second motivating concern is the rapid growth of cities in the developing world, where most growth in the planet’s urban population is now taking place. Finally, the concentration reflects the recognition that planners can draw profound lessons from a comparative perspective on urban phenomena, drawing across experiences in different countries and diverse urban environments.

Within the concentration, students can focus broadly on international planning or concentrate on a number of subthemes that speak to pressing problems related to different developmental conditions. The latter topics might include informality, poverty, service scarcities (especially in transportation, housing, water, and health services), social exclusion, and governance, including the potential for participatory planning. Students are encouraged to focus their interests on a single country in a particular region (such as Latin America, South Asia, the Middle East, or Africa, to name just a few). To successfully satisfy the concentration requirements, students must complete 12 units from the list of preapproved courses provided below or from other courses that have been selected by the student and approved by the concentration advisor. Students intending to undertake the concentration in international planning should begin to map out courses early in their program to be sure that they are able to take advantage of courses offered in only one term or in alternate years.

As Harvard and other local universities offer a wide variety of courses relevant to international planning, the list below is not exhaustive. If students would like to include alternative courses to satisfy the 12 unit concentration requirement, they should speak early on with Michael Hooper or Diane Davis to ensure that the courses are suitable. Participation in some of the courses listed below may require permission from their instructors, and it is the student’s responsibility to contact such instructors to ascertain whether admission is possible. For course offerings in other schools at Harvard or at other universities, it is recommended that students approach the instructor early to ensure it is possible to take the course. Students are advised to review the course pages of the respective schools and departments to be sure that no changes to listings have taken place.

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 one of the Concentration Advisors.
The following courses are recommended to those interested in the concentration. They are introductory level courses that give a good overview of the topics and subject matter covered in more depth by other courses in the concentration:

GSD 5319 Urbanization and International Development
GSD 5502 Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World

Approved courses include:

Fall

At the Graduate School of Design:
- GSD 3348: The Idea of Environment
  da Cunha
- GSD 5466: The Spatial Politics of Land: A Comparative Perspective
  Balakrishnan
- GSD 9127: Real Estate and City Making in China
  Wang
- GSD 5377: Metropolitics: Comparative Metropolitan Governance in 21st Century Global Cities
  Allard

At the Kennedy School of Government:
- HKS DEV 130: Why are So Many Countries Poor, Volatile and Unequal?
  Hausmann
- HKS DEV 338: Contemporary Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Solutions to Intractable Problems
  Khanna
- HKS DEV 209: Management, Finance, and Regulation of Public Infrastructure in Developing Countries
  Lee
- HKS DPI 401: Institutions and Development
  Sheely
- HKS IGA 103: Global Governance
  Sikkink
- HKS MLD 102: Getting Things Done: Management in a Development Context
  Andrews
- HKS SUP 651: Transportation Policy and Planning*
  Gomez-Ibanez
- HKS DEV 375: The Informal Economy: Is Formalization the Answer?
  Chen
- HKS DPI 407: Getting and Keeping Democracy
  Masoud
- HKS DEV 215: Public Finance in International Perspective
  Jensen

*Only if not taken to satisfy a methods or other requirement

At the School of Public Health:
- HSPH GHP 244: Health Sector Reform: A Worldwide Perspective
  Bossert
- HSPH GHP 272: Foundations of Global Health and Population
  Lamstein
- HSPH GHP 288: Issues in Health and Human Rights
  Marks

At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
- FAS ECON 2326: Economic Development: Theory and Evidence
  TBA
- FAS GOV 2131: Comparative Politics of Latin America
  Levitsky
- FAS GOV 2148: Civil Society, West and East
  Pharr

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
- MIT 11.463J: Structuring Low Income Housing Projects in
  Goethert
Developing Countries
MIT 11.466J: Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development  Ashford
MIT 11.701: Introduction to International Development  Rajagopal
MIT 11.474J: Disseminating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Innovations for the Common Good  Murcott
MIT 11.025J: D-Lab: Development  Smith

Spring
At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 4344: Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China  Rowe
GSD 5211: Cities by Design II  Gray
GSD 5337: Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities  von Hoffman
GSD 5347: International Urbanization and Development  Balakrishnan
GSD 5365: Towns and Settlements in Metropolitan Regions  Rowe
GSD 9147: Beyond Reconstruction: Mexico and the 2017 Earthquakes  David, Castillo

*Only if not taken to satisfy a methods or other requirement

At the Kennedy School of Government:
HKS DEV 308: Social Institutions and Economic Development  Woolcock
HKS DPI 450: The Political Economy of Transition in China  Saich
HKS DPI 460: Latin American Politics and Policymaking  Garay
HKS IGA 422: Global Food Politics and Policy  Paarlberg

At the School of Public Health:
HSPH GHP 214: Health, Human Rights and International Systems  Marks
HSPH GHP 269: The Political Economy of Global Health  Bump
HSPH GHP 515: International Humanitarian Response  Kayden

At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:
FAS EASTD 121: Global Cities in East Asia  Dillon
FAS GOV 1207: Comparative Politics of the Middle East  Cammett

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.005: Introduction to International Development  del Campo
MIT 11.355: International Housing Economics and Finance  Saiz
MIT 11.487: Budgeting and Finance for the Public Sector  Carolini

Not Currently Offered
GSD 5366: Global Perspectives on Shelter Insecurity and Displacement  Hooper
GSD 4329: Urbanization in the East Asian Region  Rowe
GSD 9146: Emergent Urbanism: Design Visions for the City of Hermosillo, Mexico  Davis, Vera
GSD 5502: Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World  Davis, Silva
HKS IGA 457M: International Climate Change Policy  
HKS DPI 454: The Asia-Pacific in Transition  
MIT 11.479J: Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Developing Countries  
MIT 11.526J: Comparative Land Use and Transportation Planning  
MIT 11.444J: The New Global Practitioner  

Summers  
Stowe  
Baum  
Murcott  
Zegras  
Goethert