URBAN STUDIES

Cities around the globe are facing complex issues in need of creative solutions. At Fordham, our solutions-oriented interdisciplinary program will prepare you to tackle the challenges confronting urban society in a range of areas:

- Economic development
- Inequality and social justice
- Public health
- Environment and sustainability
- Urban arts and creative industries
- Historic preservation and gentrification
- Technology and the development of “smart” cities.

With New York City as our main laboratory, you'll design a unique course of study tailored to your own interests. You'll engage in fieldwork with real-world implications and emerge with a nuanced understanding of the powerful forces that are shaping our cities, as well as the problem-solving skills required to improve the quality of life for their citizens.

For more information about Urban Studies, please visit our page on the Fordham website.

Programs

- M.A. in Urban Studies

Courses

URST 5000. Issues in Urban Studies. (3 Credits)
Required foundation course for M.A. in Urban Studies. Introduces students to current debates in urban studies and to modern urban theory. Themes covered include: immigration, race and ethnicity, urban culture and history, urban sociology, urban planning, city and globalization.
Attributes: DATA, HULI, PMMA, PSIC, PSNM.

URST 5020. Urban Political Processes. (3 Credits)
Examines urban political systems concentrating on the primary institutions and processes that comprise the urban milieu. Focuses on the major theories and approaches that attempt to explain urban politics and urban political systems.
Attributes: INST, ISIN, PMMA, PSIC.

URST 5035. City and Climate Change. (4 Credits)
This course is an examination of the impact of climate change and sea level rise on cities. It covers international examples as well as American cities, with particular focus on the New York metropolitan area. There are weekly readings and discussion. Experts from various interdisciplinary fields form part of the material developed in this course. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attributes: PSEV, PSIC.
Prerequisite: URST 5000.

URST 5040. Urbanism. (3 Credits)
Overview of urban philosophy and urban planning theory in the modern period with emphasis on contemporary scholarship as well as planning methods and techniques. Course scope is international.
Attributes: INST, ISIN.

URST 5045. Informal Cities. (3 Credits)
This course will examine informal organization as it takes place under the impact of political crisis, natural and manmade disasters, and the ongoing crisis of poverty. A variety of sources will be used including written records, films, and imagery.
Attribute: PSIC.

URST 5055. Urban Infrastructures. (3 Credits)
This course will introduce students to the multidisciplinary study of the systems that sustain and connect cities (including transportation, electricity and water, media, digital technologies, and waste management), with a focus on the social and political sides of urban infrastructures. We will examine cases from across the world, with an emphasis on the global South and New York City.

URST 5066. Urban Health and Environment. (3 Credits)
This course will examine the intersection of urban life, the urban environment, individual and community health, and public policy. In doing so, it will examine the evolution of urban public health problems, the urban environment, and the role and responsibility of the political system to respond to individual and community health issues in urban settings. A variety of approaches to the study of urban public policy as well as selected issues from the study of urban public and environmental health will be highlighted.
Attributes: CEED, CETH, ENST, ESEL, PSEV, PSIC.

URST 5070. Environmental History of the American City. (3 Credits)
A survey of New York City’s history that emphasizes its changing economy, ecology, geography, and society over 400 years. Subjects include the political economy of poverty, the global outreach of New York, its capacity to change the environment of other places, and urban redevelopment. Students will conduct preliminary research and prepare a prospectus for a research project.
Attributes: ENST, ESEL, ESHC, PSEV, PSIC.

URST 5080. On the Waterfront: Maritime New York History and Policy. (3 Credits)
This course will explore the rich exchange of goods and people which made New York a “river city,” the problematic legacy of that long maritime history, and the complex array of public policy questions that are redefining our relationship to the edge.
URST 5081. Brooklyn Waterfront: The Social Production of Space. (3 Credits)
This course examines the social, economic, ideological, and technological forces that produced the new Brooklyn waterfront. Brooklyn Bridge Park is the case study and focuses on its historic transformation from a ferry landing and the largest private freight terminal in the world into a public waterfront park at the beginning of the 21st century. The course explores the role of public policy, community debates, as well as the historical memory, visual images, and local uses that shaped the new vision of this space. Field work and research at the Brooklyn Historical Society required.

URST 5090. Lincoln Center Arts. (3 Credits)
Considers the performing and visual arts and how they are mediated by the stature of the Lincoln Center complex. Topics include John D. Rockefeller 3rd’s dream, the politics and design of the complex, Robert Moses and Lincoln Square, history of the arts in NYC, politics and economics of the arts.
Attribute: PSIC.

URST 5091. Art Communities and Urban Aesthetics. (4 Credits)
This course explores the relationship between art communities and urban spaces through questions such as: Which aspects of urban life affect art and artists? When national politics and economics bear cities, how does that in turn bear on the art scene? Using “the right to the city” as a framework, we will read about the ways art movements, affected by social and political movements, interact with urban phenomena in several specific cities across the globe, from East Asia, Africa, the Middle East, to the Americas, and from a modest scale, like the capital of Jordan, to "megacities" like Singapore. Readings and documentary films introduce students to modes of cultural engagement and resistance in relation to the urban public sphere, such as establishing alternative art spaces, women’s cultural organizations, and art used for protest, as in the Arab Spring and Black Lives Matter. In addition to class meetings, students will conduct field visits to art spaces in the New York City, such as art collectives, archives, and galleries. Note: Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.
Attribute: URSG.

URST 5095. Space, Place, Immigrant Cities. (3 Credits)
Provides an overview of key theory themes of the 20th/21st American city and explores the modern city at the crossroads of socio political and interdisciplinary urban research. Themes include city and society, class and urban space, urban poverty, race and culture, diversity in the global city, crisis and conflict, gender and sexuality, sovereignty, just cities, sanctuary cities, and more.
Attribute: PSIC.

URST 5900. Global Cities. (3 Credits)
URST 6080. Urban Studies Fieldwork. (1 to 6 Credits)
Required internship or field research in New York City or another large scale US or foreign city, depending on student interest. Students must have completed 12 credits and received approval from program director to enroll in this course. The field study may be related to the required research project. Maintenance- open enrollment.

URST 6200. Research Skills in Urban Studies. (3 Credits)
Introduces students to urban research methods, setting up research design including deriving hypotheses and conclusions and the application of qualitative and quantitative approaches.
Attribute: DATA.

URST 6999. Urban Studies Research. (1 to 4 Credits)
Required research leading to completed master’s thesis or project. It requires completion of 12 units and URST 6080, as well as program approval.

URST 7999. Urban Lab. (4 Credits)
Graduate course with field study component on specific urban topics. Co-taught by faculty across the university and open to all graduate students. Focuses on applied urban research and community engagement. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

URST 8100. Urban Studies Internship. (0.5 to 6 Credits)
This is an internship course for graduate students working on internships, and for international students working on their Curricular Practical Training (CPT). 0.5-6 credits.

URST 8999. Independent Study. (1 to 4 Credits)