MINOR IN URBAN STUDIES

The Minor in Urban Studies provides students with an opportunity to pursue their love of cities and communities and to study urban issues in depth. Students can select from a rich variety of courses that examine the interplay among the different groups occupying the urban space, the problems they confront, their struggle for recognition and power, and the forces shaping the physical terrain they inhabit. Students can pursue interests in urban history, urban design, neighborhood revitalization, economic development, social movements, and world urbanization.

The Minor offers a good foundation for students contemplating graduate work in urban planning, environmental policy, public administration, public policy, law, or social work. It also can be an intellectually exciting focus for interdisciplinary exploration, because understanding urban phenomena requires synthesizing knowledge from a broad range of the social sciences and humanities.

Students pursuing the Urban Studies Minor will have the opportunity to participate in events sponsored by the graduate Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP). Students will be invited to guest lectures, faculty and student presentations, and other events.

UEP

The Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning is a graduate public policy and planning program that offers masters degrees in urban and environmental policy and planning. It prepares public-spirited individuals for challenging careers in government, nonprofit organizations, citizen advocacy groups, and the private sector.

UEP is located at 97 Talbot Avenue on the Medford Campus. The faculty coordinator for the Urban Studies Minor is Prof. Justin Hollander (617-627-2297).

Requirements of the Minor

The Urban Studies Minor reflects the truly interdisciplinary nature of the study of urban people and places. Students select courses from a number of departments, including Anthropology, Art History, Child Development, Community Health, Economics, Education, History, Sociology, Political Science, and UEP. The Minor requires the completion of five courses (15 SHUs) from at least three different departments. The courses are drawn from the list presented.

A course taken as a part of a minor program must be taken for a letter grade and may not be used toward the fulfillment of the foundation requirements. A maximum of two courses (6 SHUs) from a minor may be counted toward a major or majors; up to two courses (6 SHUs) may be used for distribution requirements.

The completion of an Urban Studies Minor capstone project is optional. The project will integrate the knowledge and methods of the relevant disciplines. Depending on the topic, the project can be a research paper, an oral presentation, a video, a photographic exhibit, a fictional narrative, or other forms of study.

The topic of the project must receive initial approval from an instructor of one of the courses taken by the student for the Urban Studies Minor program. That initial written approval must be forwarded by email or mail to Prof. Hollander. The supervising instructor also will agree to direct the student’s work on the project. The project will be evaluated by at least one other faculty member, who will consult with the project director regarding the grade to be assigned. The student is responsible for selecting these faculty members, who then become the capstone project committee. The project will be given between one and three course credits (SHUs) under a UEP195 designation and will receive a letter grade.

A student will seek initial approval to pursue the Minor from the Urban Studies Minor coordinator in UEP. At the beginning of the student’s senior year, the student will consult with the Urban Studies Minor coordinator about the capstone project committee. The committee will consist of two faculty members, one of whom will serve as the project director.

Example Courses in the Minor

Anthropology
ANTH 020 Global Cities
ANTH 149 Community-Based Research in Urban Borderzones

Art and Art History
FAH 008 Introduction to Architecture, 1400 to the Present
FAH 095 Boston: Architecture and Urbanism

Child Study and Human Development
CSHD 82 Social Policy for Children and Families
CSHD 188 Seminar on Government Policy and the Family

Community Health
CH 002 Health Care in America: Policies and Politics

Economics
EC 124 State and Local Public Finance
EC 127 Urban Economics

Education
ED 167 Critical Race Theory Seminar: Issues in Urban Education

Environmental Studies
ENV 195 Mapping Stories of the City

German
GER 73/173 Berlin: An Excursion into Modernity

(List of courses continued on reverse side)
History
HIST 035 African Americans in the Post-Civil Rights Era
HIST 123 Industrial America and Urban Society: The Progressive Era to the Great Depression
HIST 143 South Asian Urban History

Political Science
PS 015 Sophomore Seminar: Politics and the City
PS 108 African-American Politics
PS 128 Gender, Work and Politics in East Asia
PS 195 Politics of Sustainable Cities

Sociology
SOC 113 Urban Sociology

UEP
UEP 93 Introduction to Urban Studies
UEP 101 Land Use Planning
UEP 105 Urban Planning and Design
UEP 113 Housing Policy
UEP 173 Transportation Planning
UEP 175 Independent Study
UEP 178 Urban Policy and Planning
UEP 181 Homelessness in America
UEP 194 Cities and Urban Design

Note: The above is only a partial list, additional courses may be applied to the minor with the approval of the Urban Studies Minor coordinator.

Procedures
Students can declare the Urban Studies Minor the same way as declaring a major, by filling out the Declaration of Major/Minor/Change of Advisor Form on the Student Life website. Later when they complete the major checklist, students must also submit an Urban Studies Minor Certification Form (available on the UEP website) to the UEP office to obtain the signature of the faculty coordinator of the minor. The UEP office will forward the signed form to Student Services.

Student interested in the Urban Studies Minor should arrange to meet with the faculty coordinator for the Minor at any point during the academic year to discuss the program.

For more information, contact:

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