

Urban Studies Minor Elective Courses Catalog Descriptions

ANTH 4200-Urban Anthropology

Urban space and social stratification; theories of space, place, and identity; the city in the social imaginary.
Prereq: 2020

ANTH 4470- Visual Culture

Study of the visual politics of social organization with emphasis on the images and the arenas of everyday life in North American culture. Includes explorations of the fashion system, the medical body, the cosmetic and fitness industry, visual colonialism, museum displays, and high and popular art. Prereq: 2020

CRJU 4720 Law, Justice, and Social Change

This course utilizes sociological perspectives to examine the sources and uses of law in the criminal justice system and society. Students will explore what law is using a variety of theoretical perspective. In addition, they will examine law as a dependent variable, paying special attention to social and political forces that are exerted on the law. The influence of law on the operation of the legal system also will be reviewed, with some focus on the actors in the system: police, prosecutors. The course concludes with an examination of the impact of law on society, or law as an independent variable. Specific cases will be reviewed throughout the course.

ECON 4300- Economics of Cities

This course provides an introduction to the ways that economics can be used to understand cities. The primary emphasis in the first half of the course is on the spatial organization of economic activity. Why are cities located where they are, what economic functions do they perform, and, within cities, how can we understand what goes on where, and who lives where. The tools that we develop as we deal with these questions will be essential in the second half of the course, in which we will take an economic approach to a number of policy issues that are loosely termed “urban problems” in the popular press. Prereq: 2106

ECON 4350- Economics of Poverty & Public Policy

This course applies basic economic concepts to the study of poverty in the United States. There are three main topics: (1) measuring the extent of poverty in the United States, (2) explaining the causes of poverty, and (3) evaluating actual and potential private sector or government responses to the problem. Within this framework, topics that will be discussed include poverty and inequality, economics of the family, racial/gender discrimination and segregation, neighborhood effects, history of welfare, the incentive structure of the current and proposed welfare plans, and welfare reform.

GEOG 4020- Urban Environments

This course will examine the physical environmental processes relating to soil, climate, water, and ecosystems that characterize urban environments as opposed to more natural or rural ones. It will also explore the human-environmental interface in urban areas as reflected in issues such as environmental justice, sustainability, resilience, population growth, unequal distribution of resources, and public health. Sustainability will be particularly emphasized. The City of Atlanta is used as a living laboratory for the course.

GEOG 4518- Digital Cartography

An introduction to the principles, methods, theory, and practices of contemporary digital cartography.

GEOG 4764- Urban Geography

Comparative study of the location, function, and internal spatial structure of urban areas. Special attention given to the impact of transportation, residential, commercial, and industrial activity on the changing form of cities

and suburbs. Serves as one of the two Critical Thinking Through Writing (CTW) courses required of all geography majors.

GEOG 4768- Metropolitan Atlanta

Interdisciplinary perspective focusing on social, historical, and geographic processes that have shaped the Atlanta region

GEOG 4774-Contemporary Urban Theory & Issues

An examination of urban geographical theory as a framework for understanding contemporary cities in the United States.

HIST 4220- The American City

Origins and growth of American cities from the colonial period to the present; economic, political, and cultural developments; the process of urbanization; and the influence of urbanism on the American experience.

PH 4030- Social and Behavioral Dimensions in Public Health

This course provides an overview of the theories and principles that can be used to explain how social factors and human behaviors influence health. It introduces the social, psychological, and cultural determinants of health behavior in urban and global settings. The course addresses conditions and phenomena that affect people's understanding, acceptance, and use of health information and, therefore, the design, implementation, and evaluation of community health interventions.

PH 4050 Health Equity & Disparities: Urban & Global Health Challenges

This course is designed to examine the difference between health equity and health disparities and the underlying historical, social, economic, cultural and political factors that affect health and disease outcomes across different populations. The course has a specific focus on examining these issues in urban and global environments. Students will examine how individual health is rooted in the broader context of social determinants; how access to goods and services can affect the health of communities as a whole; and how living in urban and global settings are particularly impacted by disparities. Prereqs: PH 2000 (intro PH) & PH 3001 (epidemiology)

PMAP 3111- Policy and Politics in the American City

An examination of the intersection of the political and economic systems in the United States and how they impact urban areas. Of particular interest are urban development policies.

PMAP 3411- Urban Political Economy

This course introduces the student to the principles, issues, and practice of urban planning. It reviews the history of planning, models of the planning process, and issues in contemporary urban planning practice in several substantive specialties, including transportation, land use, environmental, and economic development planning.

PMAP 4401- Urban Demography and Analysis

A course using computer spreadsheets and assigned readings to analyze planning and economic development issues. Case problems may include population, employment, land use, environmental, and transportation examples. Prereq: 3411

PMAP 4421- GIS Application to Planning and Policy Analysis

Integrational and synthesis of geographical data with composit map overlay, databases, and computer graphics. Includes application of GIS to local government, demographics, planning, transportation, aviation, emergency management, health, social services, marketing, business, real estate, and the environment.

PMAP4451- Economic Development Policy

An overview of recent literature and examples of options available to communities as they plan and finance economic development activities. Prereq: 3411

RE 3010 Real Estate Principles

This course is a prerequisite to all senior courses in real estate. It introduces the student to the nature of real estate and the principles of real estate analysis and utilization. Subjects include the real estate commodity and real property; the legal instruments involved in real property transactions; market analysis and the determinants of real estate values; the appraisal process and valuation techniques; investment and financial analysis; public aspects of real estate planning and land utilization; and technological impacts such as the Internet.

RE 4050 Real Estate Development

This course covers the real estate development process focusing on the physical/design dimension. It examines building economy through review of design, construction, and analysis procedures such as the site suitability analysis, cost engineering, and life cycle-costing. The course considers the impact of technology and virtual economic arrangements on the form and design of physical structures and the function of changing technical and economic activities on space needs. Traditional and technical databases and resources such as the Internet are incorporated.

SOCI 3201- Wealth, Power, and Inequality

Analysis of social structure and function in terms of class, caste, status, power, and mobility.

SOCI 3212- Race and Ethnic Relations

The major processes and outcomes that occur when racial or ethnic groups interact. Topics studied are the nature of racism, prejudice, discrimination, cultural pluralism, assimilation, integration, segregation, and immigrant adjustment patterns, as well as methods of resolving problems associated with these phenomena.

SOCI 4226- Urban Sociology

Analysis of urban society on the basis of the population, social organization, and social relationships of each.

SOCI 4380- Educational Sociology

Sociological foundations of modern education and the relationships of the school as a social institution to family, church, and community institutions. Emphasis will be placed upon the school and social problems related to rapid urban development.

SOCI 3390- Special Topics

A maximum of six credit hours may be applied toward the major. May be repeated if topics are different.

SW 4350 Economics of Poverty

Application of economic concepts to the study of poverty in the U.S. Topics include poverty and inequality, economics of the family, racial/gender implications, neighborhood effects, history of welfare structure and programs, and current issues in public policy related to poverty.

WGSS 3040- Globalization & Gender

Globalization is a complicated process by which people, commodities, images, and capital move with great speed and fluidity across national borders. This course aims to familiarize students with the social, political, and economic impacts of globalization worldwide and to understand the gendered dynamics of such a process.