

# MIS Urban Studies

## Elective Course Descriptions

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### Existing Courses

#### **ANTH 6200 Urban Anthropology (3)**

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

#### **ECON 8310 Economics Educational Policy (3)**

This course explores policy issues associated with K-12 education, focusing on issues raised since the publication of A Nation At Risk. The course first provides an economic conceptual framework in which to evaluate education policy alternatives and then examines education reform proposals that have been advanced over the last two decades.

#### **ECON 8300 Urban Economics (3)**

This course examines the underlying causes of urban economic problems and evaluates alternative public policies for dealing with specific problems including congestion, discrimination, poverty, affordable housing, and central city decay. Emphasis is placed on the spatial characteristics of the urban economy as well as on market failures arising from the presence of externalities.

#### **GEOS 6020 Urban Environments (3)**

Examines the physical environmental processes relating to soil, climate, water, and ecosystems that characterize urban environments as opposed to more natural or rural ones. Explores 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.

#### **GEOS 6515 Qualitative Methods in Geography**

This course provides the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to carry out qualitative research in geography. It focuses on the need and merits of qualitative research, the “how to” of various qualitative research methods, and issues related to ethics, the researcher-researched relationship, and positionality.

#### **GEOS 6538 Urban GIS**

By the end of the course, students will gain hands-on experience with a variety of methods and GIS tools useful for the spatial analysis of medical data. Prerequisite: Getting Started with GIS a 9-hour free web course provided by ESRI (<http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=catalog.webCourseDetail&CourseID=1911>).

#### **GEOS 6764 Urban Geography (3)**

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

#### **GEOS 6768/ HIST 6320 Metropolitan Atlanta (3)**

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

#### **GEOS 6774 Contemporary Urban Theory & Issues (3)**

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

#### **GEOS 8002 Methods of Geographical Research**

Research techniques used in solving geographic problems and evaluating geographic projects.

### **8007 Urban Environmental Geography (3)**

This course examines human-environment interactions in urban settings, drawing particularly from geographic research on environmental governance, political ecology, and environmental justice.

### **GEOS 8010 Seminar in Urban-Economic Geography (3)**

Advanced topics in regional analysis. May be repeated if topics vary.

### **HIST 8630 The American Built Environment (3)**

Explores the history, design, and meaning of ordinary buildings in the U.S. from houses and resorts to skyscrapers and factories. Topics include theories of “high” culture and “low,” definitions of house and home, the cultural significance of real estate, and how to assign value to mass-produced landscapes. Students will learn to use buildings as evidence of larger social, economic, and political trends in the 19th and 20th century, and to interpret buildings through methodologies and theories from urban and architectural history, cultural geography, anthropology, and sociology.

### **LAW 7251 Law & Social Welfare**

Formerly Public Interest and Social Welfare Law. This course is an introduction to the laws and policies that address social welfare and poverty in American society. The course will explore state and federal laws addressing social welfare, including welfare reform, benefit programs, Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, consumer fraud, problems of the uninsured, and access to appropriate education, affordable housing, and safe environments. The course will also include an examination of the nature of poverty, socio-economic inequalities in U.S. society, and the challenges faced by those who provide legal representation to economically disadvantaged and other vulnerable populations.

### **PH 7140 Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health (3)**

The social and behavioral sciences are a core element of the practice of public health. Disciplines such as psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology, policy and communications underpin our understanding of health behavior and help devise interventions to improve population health. This course will review the contribution of the various social and behavioral sciences disciplines in improving the public health with special attention to approaches which influence health behavior, health policies and lead to community participation and empowerment.

### **PH 7297 Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (3)**

This course will emphasize water, sanitation and hygiene in both developing and developed countries from an environmental health perspective. We will examine effective, appropriate, accessible and affordable measures to reduce the global burden of disease from environmental exposures. We will examine the risk-based framework to assess health effects from exposures to pathogenic (disease-causing) microbes and toxic chemicals in environmental media. Exposures to various agents of health concerns via water, wastes, air, vectors and other transmission routes will be considered, as will the various prevention and control measures intended to reduce these exposures.

### **PH 7340 Built Environment and Health (3)**

### **PH 7300 Urban Health (3)**

Urban health explores the relationship between the urban setting and the health of people living, working, and playing in cities. It develops an understanding of many features of cities, both individually and collectively, and how they influence peoples health. It compares and analyzes various aspects of place, people, and systems associated with cities. The course is presented as an interdisciplinary exploration in which many disciplines contribute and work collectively to understanding and improving public health. The course challenges students

with real-life aspects of the city to learn firsthand about various factors that influence health and to provide real-life investigation of theory.

### **PMAP 8010 Social Policy (3)**

This course introduces students to contemporary social policy questions in the U.S. and how to analyze policy alternatives for addressing these questions. Specific social policy issues are chosen for discussion on the basis of their relevance to current public policy debates.

### **PMAP 8021 Scope and Theory of Planning (3)**

This course will acquaint students with the history of urban planning in the United States and the legal and administrative context in which planning takes place. It will describe several models of planning processes, and consider their appropriateness under different circumstances, the role of citizen involvement in planning, and planning ethics. Also considered are examples of recent planning practice.

### **PMAP 8121 Applied Research & Statistics (3)**

An introduction to methods and statistics for applied research in the public and nonprofit sectors. Topics include the scientific method in applied research, elementary research design, measurement, qualitative research, computer-assisted data analysis, and beginning statistics including descriptive statistics, crosstabulation, introductory inferential statistics, and graphical presentations.

### **PMAP 8321 Economic Development, Policy and Planning (3)**

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

### **PMAP 8311 Urban Demography and Analysis (3)**

This course addresses the role of demography in urban policy and planning, and the impact of a changing population and their activities on our cities and communities. This course makes in-depth use of the U.S. census data in deriving measurements and conducting analysis on regional and local economic and social conditions with emphasis on both the spatial and temporal perspectives. Substantive topics to be discussed include racial/ethnic composition, immigration, housing, employment, poverty and economic development, transportation, as well as land use and urban spatial structure.

### **PMAP 8331 Urban Development and Sustainable Cities (3)**

Causes and consequences of urban development and growth management are introduced in the light of economics and public policy theories, within the context of legal and constitutional framework. In addition to prevalent growth patterns (e.g. sprawl vs. smart growth), issues related to the physical and environmental dimension of urban development such as infrastructure, sustainable environment, housing, transportation are discussed in detail.

### **PMAP 8351 Local Government and Management (3)**

An examination of the challenges governing America's urban areas from a public management perspective. A special effort will be made to integrate course materials with developments in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

### **PMAP 8561 GIS Applications (3)**

Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is widely used for planning and policy analysis in government agencies, and in the private and non-profit sectors. This introductory course provides students with a good conceptual foundation in data types & sources, coordinate systems, map design, spatial analysis and GIS applications. Students also learn the basic functions of ArcGIS software to integrate data from a variety of sources, conduct basic spatial analysis and produce quality map products.

### **PMAP 9501: Special Topics Seminar on Urban Development**

**SOCI 8212 Race and Ethnic Relations (3)**

Theory and research on racial and ethnic identities, communities, and conflicts; racism, discrimination, and related forms of inequality; racial/ethnic attitudes; assimilation, pluralism, and immigration.

**SOCI 8226 Urban Sociology (3)**

Urbanism from a sociological point of view. Focuses on three basic areas: theoretical concepts and perspectives on urban social organization; current sociological perspectives on the city; and contemporary application of these perspectives.

**SOCI 8228 Contemporary Urban Research (3)**

Recent developments in urban sociological research and theory.

**SOCI 8232 Poverty and Wealth**

Critical issues in the generation and maintenance of economic inequalities, both domestically and globally. Emphasis on the role of socioeconomic forces in the production of poverty and wealth as well as individual and group attitudes and behaviors.

**SOCI 8340 Population Dynamics**

Social factors influencing fertility, mortality, and migration in the U.S. and other countries and how these demographic processes influence social organizations; the impact of global and regional population changes on the environment and population policies; and basic techniques for constructing demographic rates and measures.

**SW 7300 Methods of Community Research**

This course is designed to provide an overview of basic principles of social science research that provide the foundation for research in social work settings. Research processes will be examined in stages from problem formulation to data collection and some basic descriptive analysis. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be reviewed. This course will stress the importance of the relationship between research and social work practice, and prepare students to evaluate existing social science research. Ethical issues, human diversity, and issues in community research will be discussed.

**SW 8350 Economics of Poverty & Public Policy**

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.

**SW8440 Global Social Work Practice, Policy, Research**

This course will offer students an introduction to social work issues from an international perspective. Using literature from around the world that focuses on global social issues, the course will address concepts of power, class, gender, race, sexuality, religion, violence, poverty, immigration, and social exclusion. Students will be required to evaluate critically what the international perspective might teach us about social work theory, practice, policy and research in the US.

**WGSS 8002 Globalization & Gender (3)**

An exploration of the social, political, and economic impacts of globalization aimed toward understanding the gendered dynamics of global economic restructuring. The course will include a consideration of the relationship between globalization on the one hand and imperialism, national security, and imprisonment on the other. Students will survey a range of feminist theories and responses to globalization, including, but not limited to, transnational feminisms, postcolonial theory, and postmodern theories.

**\*\*Option to select elective not listed here with approval from faculty advisor.**