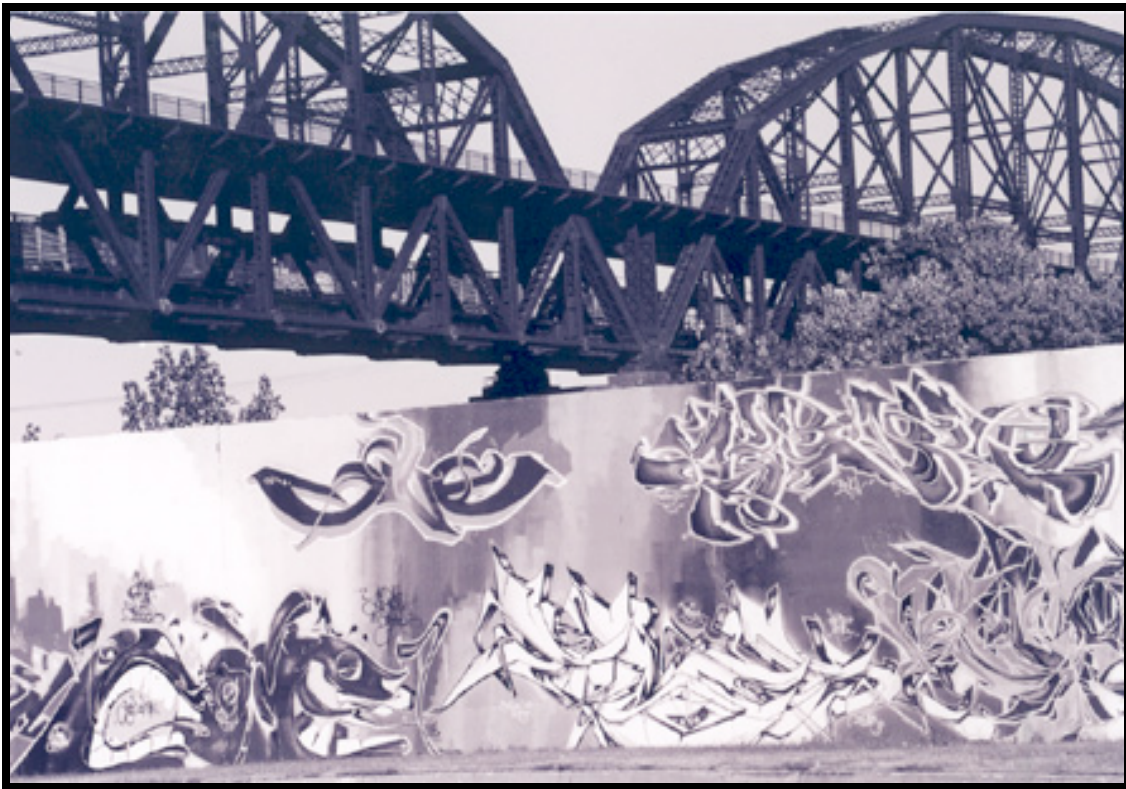


**PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CURRICULUM
WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE URBAN PROGRAMS**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES
EUGENE LANG COLLEGE**



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VISION FOR URBAN PROGRAMS AT THE NEW SCHOOL

In five years, The New School will be one of the leading institutions of higher education in the United States in the study of cities. Building on its advantage as an urban campus, its commitment to civic engagement, and its strengths in design, media, policy, and liberal arts, The New School will be recognized as a national leader in developing cutting-edge urban programs. This vision will guide the establishment of new and strengthened degrees, centers of excellence, faculty recruitment initiatives, undergraduate and graduate growth niches, and fundraising strategies. At the same time, the vision for creating a first tier Urban Studies program will provide The New School with one of its signature academic specializations for the twenty-first century.

THE URBAN STUDIES MAJOR @ EUGENE LANG COLLEGE

Drawing on the long tradition of progressive education at the New School, Lang College has the opportunity to rethink Urban Studies as a field of undergraduate education. The development of a university-wide urban core provides a broader structure for the major proposed here, while fostering a pedagogical environment dense with intellectual intersections and cross-divisional collaborations. At a fundamental level, this project represents an updating of the most significant founding principles of the New School: a commitment to innovation; a conviction that knowledge should be put to use to address the problems of the contemporary world; a serious interest in redefining the scope of what constitutes a liberal arts education; and a determination to stretch disciplinary boundaries. It is this set of intentions – what New School founders described as “practical idealism” – that informs this current urban studies initiative.

Overview

Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary undergraduate major, grounded primarily in the social sciences, that investigates cities, suburbs, and metropolitan regions around the world in all of their changing variety. The mission of the major is to promote sustained reflection on and critical engagement with the spatial, social, cultural, institutional and political dimensions of urban life.

The curriculum of the Urban Studies major is grounded in an object-focused (the metropolis) approach with a small but rigorous developmental-sequential core. The university-wide urban core provides three courses in service to the ELC Urban Studies major. The Urban Studies program will provide three additional core courses, further requirements such as advanced concepts and civic engagement courses, and a battery of electives from which students may select a pathway in consultation with advisors. The spare size of this core enables maximum flexibility for faculty to operate an appropriately scaled major, and for students to design relevant pathways of study.

The intellectual point of departure for the Urban Studies major at Eugene Lang College is the critical examination of cities, including their constituent parts, the processes that transform them, the people that inhabit them, the metropolitan systems to which they are connected, and the ecological regions that sustain them. While the emphasis of the major will continue to be in the social sciences broadly conceived, faculty specializations and courses will develop connections between the social sciences and other domains. At the same time, Urban Studies will provide a locus within the New School for students from other division to integrate a social science perspective with humanities and design.

The normative goal of the proposed major is to prepare students to be urbanists *per se*. Rather than offering a narrowly conceptualized pre-professional major, we propose to equip students to enter the wider world as critically engaged, cosmopolitan advocates of city life and social justice. This requires that faculty provide a generalist training with maximum flexibility for students to define their unique pathways through the major.

At the same time, a generalist training must be undergirded by the rigorous development of skill sets central to success in Urban Studies, including quantitative and qualitative methods, mapping and spatial analysis, writing, and community engagement. With a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Eugene Lang College, students will be well positioned to work in a variety of settings and to gain admittance to the best graduate programs in the country.

Rationale for Urban Studies

Cities, suburbs, and metropolitan regions are increasingly demanding scholarly attention:

- More than 50% of the global population resides in cities, and the urban population continues to grow at considerable speed.
- The bulk of the global economy is distinctly of an urban nature (consumer and producer services, information, finance, etc.).
- Major world cities have become the control-centers of the global economy.
- The human habitat is increasingly one of urban environments, and questions of sustainable urban development are rapidly rising to the top of a multitude of research agendas.
- The emergence of cosmopolitan urban regions around the world raises important and urgent questions of urban citizenship, governance and public policy.
- Culturally, urban living and lifestyles are becoming the norm for most citizens and individual identities and definitions of citizenship are increasingly forged in urban contexts.

Urban Studies has existed as a distinct field of study for over three quarters of a century. The field is well enough defined to relate to current research and funding trends, yet broad enough to accommodate a multitude of approaches and disciplines. At the same time, Urban Studies retains a discursive, intellectual, and methodological grounding in the social sciences--particular geography, sociology and political science. However, within the past twenty years cultural, textual, spatial, visual and historical frameworks have enriched and broadened the field of Urban Studies, enlarging the intellectual possibilities substantially.

In the past two decades, the field has grown stronger and more relevant than ever due to the growing societal impact and academic interest in processes of globalization and urbanization. While urbanists regularly publish in a variety of disciplinary venues, including journals in anthropology, design, environmental studies, geography, political science and sociology, there are also a large number of high quality inter-disciplinary peer-reviewed journals devoted specifically to the publication of urban research and debate. An illustrative, but by no means exhaustive, list is attached in Appendix III.

Offering a Unique Educational Experience

Reflecting the growing strength and increasing salience of the field, there are several strong undergraduate programs in Urban Studies in the greater New York region, and a growing number of high quality programs in the North American academic marketplace. An overview of the features of competing programs in the New York City region and a selection of 'best practice' examples from throughout North America is contained in Appendix II. Nevertheless the distinctive profile of the program proposed here will position Eugene Lang College to offer a unique and innovative urban studies education:

- At Eugene Lang College urban studies begin at home: New York City presents countless opportunities to engage the city; to analyze the spatial and historical processes of urban development; and to explore possibilities for socially and environmentally sustainable urban futures. The knowledge and skills gained by studying the New York metropolitan region provides extraordinary opportunities for an education in contemporary urban issues. We believe New York can offer students profound insights and civic engagement experiences simply not available elsewhere. This New York-based urban studies program stands to make a significant contribution to urban pedagogical practice and the development of urban leadership among students.
- This focus on New York City will be balanced by a strong international orientation that offers perspectives both comparative and substantively non-Western. The curriculum will trace the multiple transnational links that will enable students to understand the processes that have simultaneously shaped New York and transformed the city's role in the global system. At the same time they will have the opportunity to explore the urban experience in a variety of non-Western cities. The program will offer students a range of opportunities to explore a diversity of urban experiences through courses with field study components and a range of structured study-abroad experiences.
- The urban studies initiative at Lang will draw upon the interdisciplinary strengths of our campus community to provide opportunities for students to pursue a wide range of courses in a variety of fields including those in the social sciences, public policy and urban planning, the arts and humanities, architecture and design. To facilitate this, the Urban Studies curriculum at Lang College will establish a small, tightly organized core flexible enough to integrate new content and changing faculty emphases over time. As an alternative to the standard model of Urban Studies, we propose an interdisciplinary and object-centered intellectual framework to guide curriculum, faculty hires, and course development.

- Drawing on the rich tradition of socially-engaged scholarship at the New School University the Urban Studies program at Eugene Lang College will offer an innovative curriculum centered on critical approach to urban issues with an emphasis on urban citizenship, participatory democracy and social justice. Students in this program will be encouraged to make connections between an academic analysis of the city with civic engagement and advocacy.

Pedagogic Principles

We propose an Urban Studies curriculum that embraces and extends the best traditions of liberal arts education. To do so, we will establish a powerful, elegant, and compact core of courses that provide a developmental-sequential approach. Our curriculum will frame student experience in the following terms:

- Multiple pathways into the major, but a common core once enrolled
- Development of capacities from simple to higher order tasks
- Learning as a process over learning as the sum of contents
- Acquisition of skills in critical analysis, theoretical concepts, interpretation, writing, and research organization
- Distribution of pedagogy across multiple formats (lecture, seminar, studio, internship, capstone)
- Attention to student growth matched by attention to cohort formation

Goals

In the Urban Studies major, students will:

- Consider the spatial and historical development of cities and suburbs
- Investigate the policies, planning and design traditions that undergird the metropolitan framework
- Examine major themes in the political, social, and spatial aspects of metropolitan life in a global context
- Engage the metropolitan environment and its various communities through fieldwork, internship, and capstone project
- Acquire an interdisciplinary grounding in the theories and concepts central to the study of cities
- Acquire critical, evaluative, technical, and interpretive skills in order to establish an identity as urbanists
- Design and conduct a major integrative thesis or community project

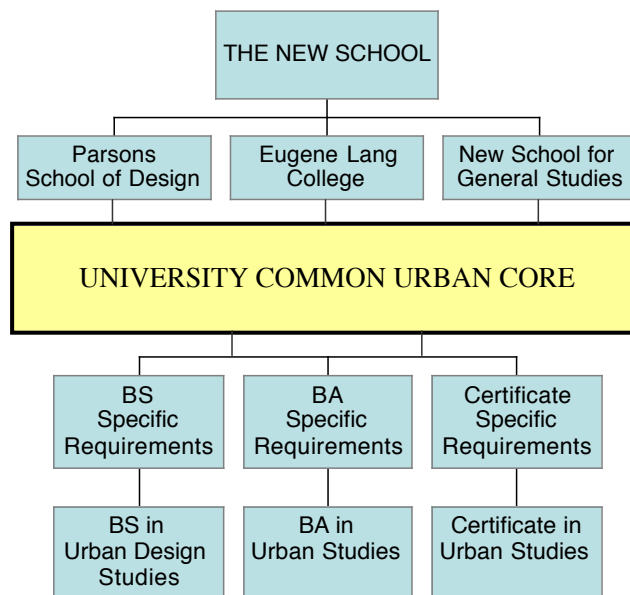
Basic Requirements

To fulfill the major students will complete the following:

- 51 credit hours (13 courses) passed with grade average of C or above
- Core courses passed with grade of C or above
- Completion of all university general education requirements

Outline of the curriculum

All Urban Studies students at Eugene Lang College follow the University Common Urban Core of three courses, to which they add two more required courses and eight electives. This curriculum leads to the award of a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies. The basic structure of the curriculum appears in the following chart.



Core courses are designed not only to introduce concepts, theories, and content, but also to introduce relevant skills for success in the major and beyond graduation from Lang College. Students select further sequences, electives, and capstones as required by their area of study, and always in consultation with their adviser. All students undertake a capstone experience, though this experience differs too depending on the student's emphasis. Lang Urban Studies students, for example, take a capstone seminar that results in the production of a major research paper or planning/policy study.

The University Common Urban Core

The Common Urban Core is composed of three main elements: Urban Core Lecture, Urban Core Lab, and Urban Core Projects. All urban students at the New School will be brought together in these core courses. The three required courses in the Urban Core carry a total of 11 credits. The Core is designed to balance the need for intimate seminar-based learning with larger lecture classes. These in turn are augmented by project-driven courses aimed at situating knowledge of the urban in specific sites, places, and locations.

The first course, ULEC: The Dynamic Metropolis, frames the common experience for urban students. The objective of this course is to establish a comparative framework for the investigation of cities in North America, India, China, Latin America, and Europe in relation to the core issues. ULEC is jointly developed by interested urban faculty from the various divisions, and in so doing explores a range of epistemological, theoretical, and practical considerations including humanist, social science, and design perspectives. The course is offered in the Fall semester and open to anybody with interest in Urban Studies, design and policy.

The second course, ULAB, is a series of research-oriented modules offered every semester. Each Lab course consists of two seven-week, two-credit segments for four credits overall. Each module provides a basic introduction to important research, data management, and data presentation skills. In each module, students attend weekly lectures followed by hands-on training in computer labs or through project-based learning in the field. Two of the labs are concerned with either quantitative or qualitative data gathering techniques, whereas two labs are concerned with data presentation, mapping, and visualization. The table below summarizes the ULAB structure:

Weeks	ULAB Module	Section 1	Section 2
1-7	Quantitative Research	MW 12-2	TTH 4-6
1-7	Qualitative Research	MW 12-2	TTH 4-6
8	Urban Festival		
9-15	Mapping	MW 12-2	TTH 4-6
9-15	Data visualization	MW 12-2	TTH 4-6

In Week Eight, urban faculty and students from across divisions will organize a week-long "Urban Festival" featuring public speakers, special events, workshops, film screenings, and a party giving undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff and opportunity to socialize and build a sense of community.

The third and final course in the University Common Urban Core is the Urban Core Project (UPRO). UPRO courses are interdisciplinary, interdivisional, collaborative, project-driven experiences for advanced undergraduates that function as a capstone experience for graduating students. Capped at 18 students, these courses can take a variety of forms including but not limited to civic engagement projects, social entrepreneurial or consulting projects, design and human environment projects, and interdisciplinary research projects. The objective of the Urban Core Projects is to bring students from a variety of divisions together and to activate their training within real urban contexts. Students may choose from Urban Core Project offerings in either the Spring semester of their Junior year or the Fall semester of their Senior year.

Thematic Clusters for Electives in the Urban Curriculum

We propose that all courses in the Urban Curriculum be grouped into eight thematic clusters. The following clusters are not exclusive and are seen as part of a dynamic and evolving matrix of the university-wide Urban Curriculum. Courses may appear in more than one thematic cluster. The clusters include:

- Urban World: Globalizing Cities, Migration, & Citizenship
- Urban Politics: Policy, Planning, Governance
- Urban Lives: Race, Class, Gender, & Identities
- Urban Cultures: Cultural & Artistic Movements, Representation & Media
- Urban Design: Aesthetics, Architecture, and Urban Form
- Urban Action: Community Organizing, Activism, and Advocacy
- Urban Sustainability: Environmentalism, Food Networks, Green Cities
- Urban Tools: Theoretical Frameworks, Methodologies and Capabilities

The thematic clusters allow students to pursue particular areas of interest throughout the Urban Curriculum. They are intended to be heuristic rather than proscriptive, guiding students and advisors in the development of pathways through the major. Students need not pursue any specific cluster in depth, or in fact may elect to spread electives over a number of clusters for breadth. In any case, these decisions should be made in consultation with the student's adviser.

The different divisions of The New School will emphasize different clusters, though there will be overlap in all cases. Parsons courses will tend to be design and arts oriented, while NSGS will offer the greatest density of humanities courses. The program in Urban Studies at Eugene Lang College will offer courses primarily grounded in the social sciences, and will also expand its offerings over time in areas such as urban cultures, non-western urbanism, media and technology.

**BA in Urban Studies, Eugene Lang College
Requirements -- Schematic**

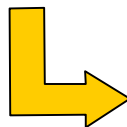
The University Urban Core [3 courses, 11 credit hours]

- I. ULEC (3 cr) -- The Dynamic Metropolis
- II. ULAB (4 cr) -- Urban Core Laboratories
- III. UPRO (4 cr) -- Urban Core Projects



Lang Urban Studies [13 courses, 51 credit hours]

- I. Program Specific Requirements (2 additional courses, 8 cr)
 - A. LURB 3034 (4 cr) -- Urban Toolbox
 - B. LURB 4009 (4 cr) -- Senior Thesis Seminar
- II. Electives (8 additional courses, 32 cr)
 - A. At least two courses each at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels
 - B. Must include one civic engagement course
 - C. Must include one advanced concepts course



**B.A. IN
URBAN
STUDIES**

BA in Urban Studies, Eugene Lang College Requirements -- Sequential

One Introductory Course

1. ULEC 2000 (3 Cr) -- The Dynamic Metropolis

Two Methods Courses

1. ULAB (4 cr) -- Urban Core Laboratories
(Two 7-week modules = One course)

Students select two of the following modules:

- Quantitative Methods
- Qualitative Methods
- Spatial Analysis Methods
- Data Visualization Methods

2. LURB 3034 (4cr) – Urban Toolbox

One Urban Core Project

- UPRO (4 cr) -- Urban Core Project

Eight Electives

- At least two courses each at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels
- One course must be a designated civic engagement course
- One course must be designated an advanced concepts course

One Senior Capstone

- LURB 4009(4 cr) -- Senior Seminar

**BA in Urban Studies, Eugene Lang College
Four Year Schedule Example (Sophomore entry)**

YEAR	COURSE	CRDT	SUBT
First Year	Writing I + II	8	
	Freshman Seminar	4	
	Reading NYC	2	
	First Year Workshop	2	
	University Electives (ULEC Requirement)	15	
			31
Second Year	The Dynamic Metropolis (ULEC Requirement)	3	
	Urban Studies Electives (Comp / Non-Western Requirement)	12	
	University Electives	15	
			30
Third Year	Urban Core Laboratories (2 required, 2 credits each)	4	
	Urban Toolbox	4	
	Urban Studies Electives (Advanced Concepts Requirement)	16	
	University Electives	11	
			31
Fourth Year	Urban Core Project	4	
	Senior Seminar	4	
	Urban Studies Electives (Civic Engagement Requirement)	8	
	University Electives	12	
			28
	SUMMARY		
	General Education	16	
	Urban Studies Core	19	
	Urban Studies Electives	32	
	University Electives	53	
	Required Total for Degree	120	
			120

Major Core Course Descriptions

LURB 2000 - The Dynamic Metropolis

This course introduces students to broad historical, conceptual, and spatial understandings of metropolitan formation and development. The course surveys several key themes germane to understanding metropolitan regions: the overlapping systems of governance, policy, and public and private capital; population, immigration, and the shifting spatial distributions of race, ethnicity, and class; the emergence of major institutions such as schools, libraries, and hospitals; networks of transit, utilities, and services; and the changing morphology and composition of the built environment.

ULAB 2100 - Urban Core Laboratories

A series of research-oriented laboratory courses will be offered every semester that complement existing methodology courses. Each Lab course consists of two seven-week, two-credit modules for four credits overall. Each module provides a basic introduction to the acquisition of important research, data management, and data presentation skills. In each segment, students attend weekly lectures followed by hands-on training in computer labs or through project-based learning in the field. Two of the labs are concerned with either quantitative or qualitative data gathering techniques, and two labs are concerned with data presentation, mapping, spatial analysis, and visualization.

LURB 2200 – Urban Toolbox

This course is designed to introduce students to the methods and techniques of applied urban research. The focus is on neighborhood-level analysis, both because it is amenable to a wide range of investigatory techniques, and because it allows students to connect with a number of important contemporary themes in urban studies (such as gentrification, polarization, immigration, and the like). The course has three broad objectives: To develop a conceptual grounding in applied urban research; To introduce basic techniques of applied urban analysis; and to broaden those competencies through practice and individual research.

UPRO 3100 - Urban Core Project

The studio course is distinct from the lecture and seminar in that it is devoted to the conduct of a semester long group project. The studio builds skills important to student success beyond college by simulating a work environment typical of planners, architects, cultural resource management firms, non-profit groups, agencies, and like organizations. The project studio requires students to adopt modalities of work oriented to collaboration, process, long-term planning, program development, periodic evaluation, peer review and critique.

LURB 4009 - Senior Seminar

The capstone is the culmination of the undergraduate experience for Urban Studies majors. Each student will select a thesis topic and format in consultation with the instructor; however, the core purpose of the seminar is the conduct of research. Over the course of the semester, students will conceptualize, design, sustain, and execute a major piece of writing based on primary research. The capstone seminar provides an environment where students can: sharpen analytical reading skills; increase proficiency in the use of research tools; explore long form thesis driven composition; and hone the ability to communicate effectively with an audience appropriate to the topic.

Additional Requirement Descriptions

In addition to the core courses, three of the eight electives that students pursue must carry designations. Ordinarily, courses with these designations will be offered every semester at the 3000 or 4000 level. Given interest in course content, many students will take more than one such course, but they must take at least one of each to complete the major.

Civic Engagement Course

Every semester, at least one course in Urban Studies will carry the civic engagement designation. Such designation indicates that a course revolves around a project undertaken with a community group, neighborhood organization, government agency, or cultural institution. Long civic engagement courses provide students with an intensive environment in which to learn the fundamentals of community-based development, planning, and organization. New York City provides a tremendous range of options for students to engage in on-the-ground learning with a community partner.

Advanced Concepts Course

These courses focus on one key theme arising from the introductory courses to analyze in historical, theoretical, and methodological depth. Classes are discussion-based seminars where students work through a common core of readings. Key themes include, but are not limited to, urban ecology, infrastructure, transportation, race and ethnicity, historic preservation, globalization, political economy, and cultural formations.

ELC Urban Studies Identity

Unique Features of the Major

The Urban Studies major at Eugene Lang College offers several unique features that distinguish it from most other programs in the United States.

- Distinctive profile as an innovative New York-based urban studies program with systematic engagement with the city as living laboratory, emphasizing commitment to civic engagement and social justice.
- Interdisciplinary framework, focused on the object of analysis (the city), which opens up the terrain of learning across disciplines
- The university wide core structure puts Lang students in contact with peers from design, media studies, the arts, and other domains of knowledge, thereby significantly broadening the conversation
- With only five core courses, students can pursue a range of interests and to develop substantial breadth in their knowledge of cities
- Exposing social science and humanities students to the studio format and its associated pedagogy through the Urban Core Projects and civic engagement courses expands their capacities to work in teams to analyze and solve complex, real-world challenges
- The Senior capstone format brings students and faculty into closer conversation about research, and helps students to sharpen a sense of themselves as urbanists--people with knowledge, experience, and skills that have value in the world beyond the campus

Faculty and Student Cohesion

In order to strengthen Urban Studies cohort formation, faculty and staff will devote time to building a community among students. The following list is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather indicates the potential range of efforts to be undertaken in forming successive student cohorts.

- Overhaul of web site and inclusion of student profiles
- Encourage and support the undergraduate Urban Studies Association
- Annual Urban Studies publication (essays, photography, art, etc.)
- Beginning and end of academic year meetings followed by parties
- Ongoing lectures, films, and symposia
- Periodic outings for Urban Studies students and faculty
- 'Salon' nights where students invite faculty, planners, architects, artists, activists, and others to present their work

Student Opportunities Beyond Graduation

A degree in Urban Studies provides Eugene Lang College graduates with a broad, interdisciplinary liberal arts training along with a resume of real world experiences and a battery of useful technical skills. Lang Urban Studies majors are creative, thoughtful, well-rounded problem solvers, able to move comfortably between the realm of ideas and the issues that we face from day to day.

Careers

Urban Studies majors and minors engaged in a wide variety of endeavors after graduation. The field prepares students for interesting careers that emphasize research, analysis, writing, and civic engagement. Graduates of the Urban Studies program may prepare for careers in government, non-profits, law, planning, cultural resource management, development, tourism, media, museums, labor and community organizing, advocacy, lobbying, or education. Many business firms value Urban Studies training for work in public relations, demography, marketing, project planning, and outreach. Foundations, agencies, institutions, and non-profit organizations benefit from the broad education students receive in Urban Studies.

Service

Many Urban Studies graduates choose to spend time in volunteer or paid service before pursuing careers. Some go abroad through programs like the Peace Corps, traipsing off to locations around the globe. Others work in national programs such as AmeriCorps, Teach for America, and Volunteers in Service to America. Still others become involved with faith-based service projects such as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Catholic Worker, the Jewish Federation, and the YMCA. And finally, some students pursue service through labor organizing, public advocacy work, literacy training, and other local efforts.

Graduate School

While many students dive right into exciting careers and volunteer service, others continue their education through graduate studies. They may pursue the masters and doctoral degrees in fields as diverse as Urban Studies, City Planning, Architecture, Regional Science, Urban Design, Historic Preservation, Civil Engineering, Communications, Education, Ethnic Studies, Law, Business, Library and Information Science, Political Science, Public Administration, and Social Work. Graduate programs around the country regard an Urban Studies degree as solid preparation for the rigors of graduate school in the social sciences as well as in the humanities and professions.

Resources

It hardly need be said that the most important resource for the Urban Studies major is the city of New York itself. The city, its five boroughs, and its metropolitan expanse provide an unparalleled context in which to study urban processes, places, and environments up close. In addition, there are thousands of non-profit organizations, community groups, city agencies, cultural institutions, advocacy groups, religious congregations, planning firms, and political offices. This rich array of civic and institutional networks provides students with tremendous opportunities for experiential learning through community projects, internships, and civic engagement courses.

In terms of equipment, the general resource requirements for the Lang Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies are coterminous with those of the university wide urban curriculum. Bulky and expensive technology plant, such as large format printers, video editing stations, audio recording facilities, and related components should be centralized within existing laboratories. At present, these labs are sufficiently appointed to resource the nascent Urban Studies major, but over time will need to be augmented with additional plant and equipment to meet student and course demands.

At the same time, some decentralization of small-scale equipment will prevent choke points in student access. It will provide students with more frequent use of the equipment, which will allow for the development of competencies and mastery. The particular resources needed within Lang are not capital intensive, and consist primarily of research and project equipment. The following list constitutes minimum requirements for a well-functioning Urban Studies major:

Software	GIS/Spatial Analysis (e.g. ArchView) Survey management (e.g. SPSS) Qualitative Analysis (e.g. NUD*IST) Design (e.g. Façade, Visual Basic, Advanced Photoshop) Access to city topographic, building, and land use overlays
Hardware	Five dedicated terminals with one server One plot printer One laser printer One archival quality color printer One large format scanner
Equipment	Five digital cameras Two digital video recorders Five digital audio recorders One digital video projector Two mobile GPS units Two laser-guided survey sextants with tripods

Coursework

The program in Urban Studies already offers many strong courses to support a major. With access to urban courses in Parsons and NSGS, the number of courses available to students in the Lang BA program will expand substantially. However, due to the fact that joint appointments result in the sharing of faculty with other programs, there is a critical need to expand the content, format, and levels of courses offered strictly within Lang Urban Studies. Following is an account of existing courses constituting the total pool of Lang Urban Studies offerings from which each semester's roster of 8-12 courses is drawn.

Frequently offered courses (At least once every three semesters)

- LURB 2000 Public Space and the City
- LURB 2003 Community Based Research in Action
- LURB 2058 Urban Environmental Issues
- LURB 2316 Landscapes of the City: Introduction to Urban Studies
- LURB 3003 Urban Homelessness
- LURB 3004 Migrant City
- LURB 3007 Urban Economies
- LURB 3009 Immigration and Segregation
- LURB 3010 Community Organizing
- LURB 3011 Urban Poverty and Public Policy in the U.S.
- LURB 3034 Urban Toolbox
- LURB 3039 Urbanization in the Black World
- LURB 3040 Social Justice and the City
- LURB 3103 New York / New Orleans
- LURB 3810 Planning Sustainable Cities
- LURB 4035 Environmental Policy
- LURB 4020 Screening the City: Movies and the Metropolitan Experience
- LURB 4527 Political Economy of the City
- LURB 4529 Community Development
- LURB 4550 Urban Economic Development

Sporadically offered courses (Less than once every three semesters)

- LURB 1005 Gender, Difference, and the City
- LURB 1026 Urban Problems, Urban Actions
- LURB 2059 Race, Ethnicity, and Class: The City and the Grassroots
- LURB 2065 Historic Preservation
- LURB 2103 Architecture, Technology & Landscape: The Everyday City
- LURB 3018 American City: From World War II to 9/11
- LURB 4000 Planning the City: Thinkers and Doers
- LURB 4509 The Competitive City
- LURB 4570 Suburbs, Sprawl, and Regionalism

Appendix: Features of Comparable Urban Studies Programs

Urban Studies Programs in the Greater New York City Region:

- **Barnard-Columbia**

Focus: Introduces students to the political, economic, and cultural issues that inform urbanism

Strengths: New York City focus, emphasis on research methods; senior research thesis; highly interdisciplinary

Weaknesses: Not a free-standing program (students take urban studies courses within other disciplines like anthropology, sociology, art history and architecture); few courses within urban studies specifically

Organization: Six requirements include combination of courses in the following areas: Urban-related Social Science, Urban-related non-Social Science, Methods of Analysis, Specialization, Junior Colloquia, and a Senior Seminar (major and minor offered)

Thematic orientation: Interdisciplinary with specialization in a discipline outside of urban studies

- **New York University**

Focus: Interdisciplinary study of cities, urban issues and urban culture

Strengths: New York City focus; internship requirement that draw upon city's government, community and non-profit agencies; prizes awarded to a student for dedicated service; 5-year MPA/BA available through the Wagner School of Public Policy

Weaknesses: Lack of diversity in course selection; few courses available; courses lack a global focus

Organization: Requirements include two introductory sequence courses, four elective areas courses, and four research core courses, including an internship (both major and minor offered)

Thematic orientation: Designed for students who want to work in regional planning, social work, public admin and community organization

- **Queens College of the City of New York**

Focus: Introduction to broad range of theoretical and practical issues facing public and private agencies dealing with the metropolitan environment

Strengths: New York City focus; strong cultural focus (sexuality/gender; ethnicity/race); Students majoring must develop a concentration in a subfield of urban studies (housing and city planning, health and human services, ethnic groups and communities among others); wide variety of courses

Weaknesses: Focus on American cities, little on developing countries

Organization: Requirements involve an Introduction (Urban Poverty and Affluence); Methods in Urban Research; two out of three 100 level: Economics, Political Science, or Sociology; one of two Urban Studies 300 level, OR full time job/internship in urban-related field; 24 credits in other Urban Studies courses.

Thematic orientation: Cultural/historical/American

- **Vassar College**

Focus: To introduce students to a temporal range and spatial variety of urban experience and phenomena; 2) to equip students with methodological tools to enable them to investigate and analyze urban issues; 3) to engage students experientially in a facet of the urban experience; 4) to develop within the student a deeper grasp of these issues through advanced study within at least one disciplinary approach.

Strengths: Interdisciplinary approach

Weaknesses: Students must take majority of classes outside of urban studies

Organization: Requirements include an Intro to Urban Studies course, an Urban Theory course, and the Senior Seminar, a Research Methods course that focuses on the student's chosen concentration (Art, Economics, Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, or Psychology) within Urban Studies, as well as one "unit" of fieldwork

Thematic organization: interdisciplinary/humanities/liberal arts focus

Selected "Best Practice" Programs in North America:

- **ACM (Associated Colleges of the Midwest) Chicago**

Focus: Program uses the city of Chicago to engage students in creative strategies of social change

Strengths: Guest lectures, field trips, focus on systems and power

Weaknesses: Lack of diversity in course selection

Organization: Students are required to take a "core course" which gives students an overview of Chicago and introduce them to how the city works. It involves guest speakers and field trips combined with faculty lectures which introduce students to the various aspects of urban studies such as government, business, nonprofit organizations, the justice system, schools, and advocacy groups

Thematic organization: Applied/public policy

- **San Francisco State University**

Focus: Preparing students for professional and civic involvement to improve the quality of urban life; to offer a curriculum which is responsive to changing urban problems and policies; to contribute to the body of knowledge regarding the dynamics of urban life; and to help Bay Area communities through applied research and student activities

Strengths: Emphasis on globalization

Weaknesses: Heavy requirements for students

Organization: Core requirements of the program consist of 12 courses which develop a foundation in the four major concentration areas of the curriculum. These areas are: 1) historical and social science perspectives, 2) research methods and data analysis, 3) foundation course in policy or planning, 4) fieldwork and practical applications.

Thematic orientation: Social justice and environmental sustainability

- **Southern Connecticut State University**

Focus: Preparing students professionally and to engage the local community in an increasingly globalized and urbanized world. The program's approach provides participants with a systematic, critical overview of contested ideas, principles and practices which are relevant to the understanding and promotion of co-existence and social justice in an increasingly diverse urban context

Strengths: Focus on equipping students with tools to deal with diversity/difference; education

Weaknesses: Few courses available

Organization: 4 required courses in urban studies (cross listed)

Thematic orientation: Program designed to enrich the work of professionals in fields such as teaching, social work, political science, and business

- **Temple University**

Focus: Department of Geography/Urban Studies merges the two subjects; emphasis on traditional and innovative research methods, quantitative and qualitative approaches, and a concern for social consciousness

Strengths: international focus; emphasis on environment, development, statistics

Weaknesses: broad, lack of specificity around American cities

Organization: Several basic required courses (including two introductory courses, a methods course, a Senior Seminar, and a statistics course.) These are supplemented by upper level elective courses

Thematic orientation: physical and natural phenomena of cities, geography

- **Tufts**

Focus: Masters program in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning aims to "educate a new generation of leaders as practical visionaries who will contribute to solving key public problems"

Strengths: interdisciplinary, field-based education, flexible curriculum, policy analysis, global and local focus, required internship

Weaknesses: Tries to do too much, no real focus

Organization: 8 required courses in urban studies

Thematic orientation: Social responsibility

- **York University**

Focus: Interdisciplinary overview of cities

Strengths: Highly interdisciplinary – ranging from immigration studies to urban planning politics

Weaknesses: No specific "urban studies" home for courses; students merely take a combination of courses deemed "urban" and cross-listed as such

Organization: Degree programs in Urban Studies that include an honor's double major, honor's major/minor, and "certificate" degree options at the Bachelors level. Students traditionally combine Urban Studies with a second field such as geography, environmental studies, political science or history. Each program has core courses required for completion