

What is Urban Studies?

Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary major for Barnard, Columbia, and GS students.

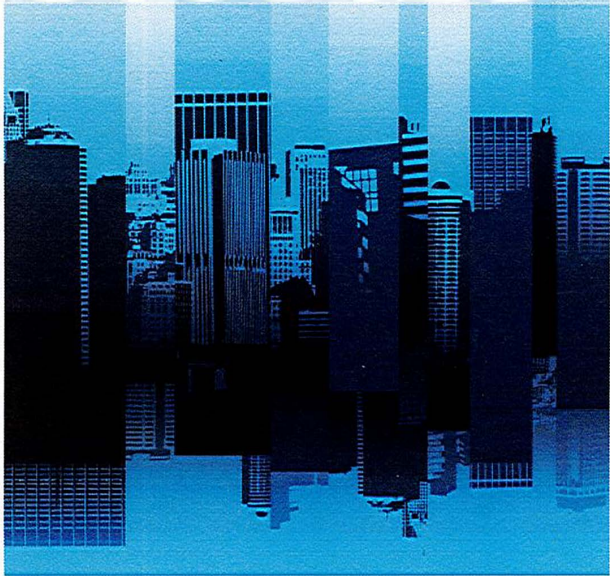
We study the complex problems, institutions, and achievements of city life. By integrating concepts from numerous academic disciplines — including Anthropology, Economics, History, Planning, Political Science, and Sociology — we develop deep and nuanced understandings of modern cities, and the social, historical, political, economic, spatial, and cultural forces shaping urban areas today.

This major is ideal for students with a strong interest in cities and urban life, and is especially suited to those with broad intellectual interests.

Interested? Here are the next steps:

- 1. **Check out our website,** <http://urban.barnard.edu/>  
Find the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on the program.
- 2. **Join our listserv**  
Send an email to [urbanstudies@barnard.edu](mailto:urbanstudies@barnard.edu) with the subject line “subscribe” to learn about events, internships and more.
- 3. **Attend our program planning meeting**  
Our Fall and Spring Program Planning Meetings are announced on the listserv, Urban Studies website, and posters on campus. No registration required; just show up.
- 4. **Consider taking an ‘A’ course**  
‘A’ courses are courses in the urban social sciences. Check the website for a full list, but some examples include: POLS UN3213 — American Urban Politics, SOCI UN3324 — Global Urbanism, URBS UN3420 — Intro to Urban Sociology and URBS UN3450 – Neighborhood and Community Development.
- 5. **Any questions?**  
Email Associate Director Prof. Aaron Passell at [apassell@barnard.edu](mailto:apassell@barnard.edu).

MAJOR IN URBAN STUDIES



Barnard-Columbia  
Urban Studies Program



Milstein Learning Center  
7th floor  
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(212) 854-4073

There are 14 required courses in Urban Studies, which are sorted into six categories (U and A–F).

Note about Requirement D

Barnard College students can double-count one A, B, or C course toward this requirement (only one of five), with the approval of the Director; Columbia College and General Studies students cannot double-count courses. Barnard majors also have specific requirements for each specialization, which are outlined in detail on the program's website, [urban.barnard.edu](http://urban.barnard.edu).

Major Curriculum, Quick Overview

Urban Studies (U)	<b>Intro to Urban Studies (UN1515)</b>	1 course at any time
A courses	<b>Urban-focused social science courses</b> Choose from the following disciplines: Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Health, or Sociology (no more than one course from each)	3 courses, one of which <i>must</i> be a History course.
B course	<b>Humanities/Design/Natural Sciences</b> (with a substantial urban focus)	1 course at any time
C course	<b>Course in a Method of Analysis</b> (quantitative or qualitative). Recommended: URBS UN2200 — Intro to GIS Methods	1 course at any time
D courses	<b>Courses within your specialization</b> Choose one discipline (e.g. Architecture, History, Psychology, Sustainable Development, etc.) to be your specialization. Each specialization carries its own course requirements. For more information, please see the website.	5 courses at any time (an additional discipline-specific methods course can be useful)
E courses	<b>Junior Seminar</b> (research-focused, topical seminar) URBS UN3545 and 3546	1 course during junior year
F courses	<b>Senior Seminar</b> (year-long course) Either The Built Environment, New York Field Research, or International Topics (alternatives arranged in special cases).	2 courses, taken in the fall and spring of senior year

The Director of the Urban Studies program decides whether a course qualifies as an ‘A,’ ‘B,’ or ‘C’ course. Lists of the approved A/B/C courses are posted on the website each semester. If you see an urban-focused course not on the list, please obtain the syllabus and speak with your major advisor. We like to update our lists and recognize new urban courses.

One example of the pacing of Urban Studies courses to complete the major:

First-Year	Fall or Spring	First 'A' course
Sophomore	<b>Fall:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Second 'A' course</li></ul> <b>Spring:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Third 'A' course</li><li>• 'D' course (1 of 5)</li></ul>	
Junior	<b>Fall:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Junior Seminar</li><li>• 'B' non-social science course</li><li>• 'D' course (2 of 5)</li><li>• URBS UN1515 — Intro to Urban Studies (if not previously)</li></ul> <b>Spring:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'C' methods course</li><li>• 'D' course (3 of 5) [or study abroad]</li></ul>	
Senior	<b>Fall:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senior Seminar (year-long course);</li><li>• 'D' course (4 of 5)</li></ul> <b>Spring:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senior Seminar (year-long course)</li><li>• 'D' course (5 of 5)</li></ul>	