URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING
COURSE 11

CONTACT

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DESCRIPTION

Individuals interested in urban studies and planning aspire to improve the lives of citizens through intelligent planning of environments and communities. Course 11 focuses on creating ecologically resilient and adaptive urban regions, forging equitable and well-designed development, fostering intelligent cities and socially responsive technologies, designing, building, and advocating for affordable, adaptive and inclusionary housing and neighborhoods, and engaging in effective democratic governance. The planning specialties at MIT can be distinguished by the geographic levels at which decision-making takes place - neighborhood, city, regional, state, national, and global.

INSIDE COURSE 11

11	Urban Studies and Planning	Undergraduates: 15
11-6	Urban Studies and Planning with Computer Science	Undergraduates: 6

INTRODUCTORY CLASSES

11.001 **Introduction to Urban Design and Development**
Examines the evolving structure of cities and the way that cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas can be designed and developed. Surveys the ideas of a wide range of people who have addressed urban problems. Stresses the connection between values and design. Demonstrates how physical, social, political and economic forces interact to shape and reshape cities over time.

11.002 **Making Public Policy**
Examines how the struggle among competing advocates shapes the outputs of government. Considers how conditions become problems for government to solve, why some political arguments are more persuasive than others, why some policy tools are preferred over others, and whether policies achieve their goals. Investigates the interactions among elected officials, think tanks, interest groups, the media, and the public in controversies over global warming, urban sprawl, Social Security, health care, education, and other issues.

11.003 **Methods of Policy Analysis**
Provides students with an introduction to public policy analysis. Examines various approaches to policy analysis by considering the concepts, tools, and methods used in economics, political science, and other disciplines. Students apply and critique these approaches through case studies of current public policy problems.

11.005 **Introduction to International Development**

Introduces the political economy of international economic development planning, using an applied, quantitative approach. Considers why some countries are able to develop faster than others. Presents major theories and models of development and underdevelopment, providing tools to understand the mechanisms and processes behind economic growth and broader notions of progress. Offers an alternative view of development, focusing on the persistence of dichotomies in current theory and practice. Using specific cases, explores how different combinations of actors and institutions at various scales may promote or inhibit economic development. Students re-examine conventional knowledge and engage critically with the assumptions behind current thinking and policy.

11.006 **Poverty and Economic Security**

Explores the evolution of poverty and economic security in the US within a global context. Examines the impacts of recent economic restructuring and globalization. Reviews current debates about the fate of the middle class, sources of increasing inequality, and approaches to advancing economic opportunity and security. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

11.007 **Urban and Environmental Technology Implementation Lab**

Real-world clients and environmental problems form the basis of a project in which teams of students develop strategies for analysis and implementation of new sensor technology within cities. Working closely with a partner or client based on the MIT campus or in Cambridge, students assess the environmental problem, implement prototypes, and recommend promising solutions to the client for implementation. Equipment and working space provided.

11.011 **The Art and Science of Negotiation**

Introduction to negotiation theory and practice. Applications in government, business, and nonprofit settings are examined. Combines a "hands-on" personal skill-building orientation with a look at pertinent tactical and strategic foundations. Preparation insights, persuasion tools, ethical benchmarks, and institutional influences are examined as they shape our ability to analyze problems, negotiate agreements, and resolve disputes in social, organizational, and political circumstances characterized by interdependent interests. Enrollment limited by lottery; consult class website for information and deadlines.

11.013 **American Urban History**

Seminar on the history of institutions and institutional change in American cities from roughly 1850 to the present. Among the institutions to be looked at are political machines, police departments, courts, schools, prisons, public authorities, and universities. Focuses on readings and discussions.

11.016 **The Once and Future City**

Examines the evolving structure of cities, the dynamic processes that shape them, and the significance of a city's history for its future development. Develops the ability to read urban form as an interplay of natural processes and human purposes over time. Field assignments in Boston provide the opportunity to use, develop, and refine these concepts.

11.025 **D-Lab: Development**
Issues in international development, appropriate technology and project implementation addressed through lectures, case studies, guest speakers and laboratory exercises. Students form project teams to partner with community organizations in developing countries, and formulate plans for an optional IAP site visit. (Previous field sites include Ghana, Brazil, Honduras and India.) Recitation sections focus on specific project implementation, and include cultural, social, political, environmental and economic overviews of the target countries as well as an introduction to the local languages.

11.027 **City to City: Comparing, Researching and Writing about Cities**
Introduces client-oriented research and the use of urban planning tools. Students work directly with government and community agencies to find solutions to real world problems; interview planners and other field experts, and write and present findings to client and community audiences. Opportunity to travel for research.

11.041 **Introduction to Housing, Community, and Economic Development**
Provides a critical introduction to the shape and determinants of political, social, and economic inequality in America, with a focus on racial and economic justice. Explores the role of the city in visions of justice. Analyzes the historical, political, and institutional contexts of housing and community development policy in the US, including federalism, municipal fragmentation, and decentralized public financing. Introduces major dimensions in US housing policy, such as housing finance, public housing policy, and state and local housing affordability mechanisms. Reviews major themes in community economic development, including drivers of economic inequality, small business policy, employment policy, and cooperative economics. Expectations and evaluation criteria differ for students taking graduate version.

11.067 **Land Use Law and Politics: Race, Place, and Law**
Introduces students to basic principles of US law and legal analysis, focused on property, land use, equal protection, civil rights, fair housing, and local government law, in order to explore who should control how land is used and how. Examines the rights of owners of land and the types of regulatory and market-based tools that are available to control land use, and discusses why and when government regulation, rather than private market ordering, might be necessary to control land use patterns. Explores basic principles of civil rights and anti-discrimination law and focuses on particular civil rights problems associated with the land use regulatory system, such as exclusionary zoning, residential segregation, the fair distribution of undesirable land uses, and gentrification. Introduces basic skills of statutory drafting and interpretation. Assignments differ for those taking the graduate version.

11.074 **Cybersecurity Clinic**
Provides an opportunity for MIT students to become certified in methods of assessing the vulnerability of public agencies (particularly agencies that manage critical urban infrastructure) to the risk of cyberattack. Certification involves completing an 8-hour, self-paced, online set of four modules during the first four weeks of the semester followed by a competency exam. Students who successfully complete the exam become certified. The certified students work in teams with client agencies in various cities around the United States. Through preparatory interactions with the agencies, and short on-site visits, teams prepare vulnerability assessments that client agencies can use to secure the technical assistance and financial support they need to manage the risks of cyberattack they are facing. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

COURSE 11-FRIENDLY UROP AREAS

Civic Data Design Lab

CoLab

Displacement Research & Action Network

Mobility Futures Collaborative

City Form Lab

Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism

Organization for Permanent Modernity

SENSEable City Lab

Urban Economics Lab

Urban Risk Lab

The MIT China Future City Lab

GET INVOLVED WITH COURSE 11

DUSP Student Council

Transportation Club

UrbanAfrica

Students of Color Committee

SKILLS

Mediate community disputes or assist in developing alternative plans for projects.

Project management and evaluation

Strong visualization abilities

Advise planning officials on project feasibility, cost-effectiveness, regulatory conformance, or possible alternatives

POSSIBLE FUTURE POSITIONS

- **Urban designer:** Responsible for designing all aspects of a community, from building architecture to landscapes to public transportation options. Focus on balancing functionality and aesthetics in all aspects of the community.
- **Project Architect:** Manage construction projects from the conceptual design phase through completion of construction, leading teams of engineers and contractors to meet client schedule and budget.
- **Real Estate Developer:** Responsible for building or renovating homes, offices, retail centers or industrial sites

CAREER INDUSTRY EXAMPLES

Architecture

City design

Community development

Landscaping

Transportation

Sustainability consulting

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS

Atlantic Media

Boston Planning & Development Agency

Gensler

Jacobs

Keolis America Inc

Local & State governments

Stantec

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin

Volpe Center