

# GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF CITIES (BRYN MAWR)

[brynmawr.edu/cities](http://brynmawr.edu/cities)

The interdisciplinary Growth and Structure of Cities major challenges students to understand the dynamic relationships connecting urban spatial organization and the built environment with politics, economics, cultures and societies worldwide.

Core introductory classes present analytic approaches that explore changing forms of the city over time and analyze the variety of ways through which women and men have re-created global urban life across history and across cultures.

With these foundations, students pursue their interests through classes in architecture, urban social and economic relations, urban history, studies of planning and the environmental conditions of urban life.

Opportunities for internships, volunteering, and study abroad also enrich the major. Advanced seminars further ground the course of study by focusing on specific cities and topics.

Students may complete a major or minor in Growth and Structure of Cities.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 15 courses (11 courses in Cities and four allied courses in other related fields) is required to complete the major. Two introductory courses (185, 190) balance sociocultural and formal approaches to urban form and the built environment, and introduce cross-cultural and historical comparison of urban development. The introductory sequence should be completed with a broader architectural survey course (253, 254, 255) and a second social science course that entails extended analysis and writing (229). These courses should be completed as early as possible in the first and second years; at least two of them must be taken by the end of the first semester of the sophomore year.

Writing across multiple disciplines is central to the major, drawing on sources as varied as architectural and visual studies, ethnographic

fieldwork, archival and textual study, theoretical reflection and policy engagement. Students write and receive commentary on their arguments and expression from their introductory classes through their required capstone thesis. While most courses in the major have important writing components, at the moment City 229 acts as our primary writing-intensive course, asking students to draw upon the breadth of their interests to focus on researching, writing and rewriting within a comparative framework. We will be expanding our pedagogy in this area over time in conjunction with college initiatives and student feedback. At the same time, students are encouraged to use other classes within the major to develop a range of skills in methods, theory, and presentations, oral and written.

In addition to these introductory courses, each student selects six elective courses within the Cities Department, including cross-listed courses. One of these should be a methods class. At least two must be at the 300 level. In the senior year, a capstone course is required of all majors. Most students join together in a research seminar, CITY 398, in the fall of that year. Occasionally, however, after consultation with the major advisors, the student may elect another 300-level course or a program for independent research. This is often the case with double majors who write a thesis in another field. Internships are also an important component of the program either in the summer or for credit with faculty supervision.

Finally, each student must also identify four courses outside Cities that represent additional expertise to complement her work in the major. These may include courses such as physics and calculus for architects, additional courses in economics, political science, sociology, or anthropology for students more focused on the social sciences and planning, or courses that build on language, design, or regional interests. Any minor, concentration, or second major also fulfills this requirement. Cities courses that are cross-listed with other departments or originate in them can be counted only once in the course

## **GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF CITIES (BRYN MAWR)**

selection, although they may be either allied or elective courses.

Both the Cities Department electives and the four or more allied courses must be chosen in close consultation with the major advisors in order to create a strongly coherent sequence and focus. This is especially true for students interested in architectural design, who will need to arrange studio courses (226, 228) as well as accompanying courses in math, science and architectural history; they should contact the department chair or Daniela Voith in their first year. Likewise, students interested in pursuing a minor in Environmental Studies or in area studies should consult with faculty early in their career.

Students should also note that many courses in the department as well as cross-listed courses are not given every year. They should also note that courses may carry prerequisites in cities, art history, economics, history, sociology, or the natural sciences.

Programs for study abroad or off campus are encouraged, within the limits of the Bryn Mawr and Haverford rules and practices. In general, a one-semester program is strongly preferred. The Cities Department regularly works with off-campus and study-abroad programs that are strong in architectural history, planning, and design, as well as those that allow students to pursue social and cultural interests. Students who would like to spend part or all of their junior year away must consult with the major advisors and appropriate deans early in their sophomore year.

Cities majors have created major plans that have allowed them to coordinate their interests in cities with architecture, planning, ethnography, history, law, environmental studies, mass media, social justice, medicine, public health, the fine arts, and other fields. No matter the focus, though, each Cities major must develop a solid foundation in both the history of architecture and urban form and the analysis of urban culture, experience, and policy. Careful methodological choices, clear analytical writing, and critical visual analysis constitute primary emphases of the major. Strong interaction with faculty and other students are an important and productive part of the Cities Department, which helps us all take advantage of the major's flexibility in an organized and rigorous way.

## **MINOR REQUIREMENTS**

Students who wish to minor in the Cities Department must take at least two out of the four required courses and four cities electives, including two at the 300 level. Senior Seminar is not mandatory for fulfilling the cities minor.

## **3-2 PROGRAM IN CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING**

Over the past three decades, many Cities majors have entered the 3-2 Program in City and Regional Planning, offered in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania. Students interested in this program should meet with faculty early in their sophomore year.

## **FACULTY**

### **Jeffrey Cohen**

Term Professor in Growth and Structure of Cities

### **Min-Kyung Lee**

Assistant Professor of Growth and Structure of Cities

### **Gary McDonogh**

Chair and Professor of Growth and Structure of Cities and on the Helen Herrmann Chair

### **Samuel Olshin**

Senior Visiting Studio Critic

### **Liv Raddatz**

Lecturer

### **Daniela Voith**

Senior Lecturer in the Growth and Structure of Cities Program

## **COURSES**

### **CITY B185 URBAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

*Gary McDonogh, Liv Raddatz*

Examines techniques and questions of the social sciences as tools for studying historical and contemporary cities. Topics include political-economic organization, conflict and social differentiation (class, ethnicity and gender), and cultural production and representation. Philadelphia features prominently in discussion, reading and exploration as do global metropolitan comparisons through papers involving fieldwork, critical reading and planning/problem solving using qualitative and quantitative methods. (Offered Fall 2017)

## **GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF CITIES (BRYN MAWR)**

### **CITY B190 THE FORM OF THE CITY: URBAN FORM FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT**

*Min-Kyung Lee*

This course studies the city as a three-dimensional artifact. A variety of factors—geography, economic and population structure, politics, planning, and aesthetics—are considered as determinants of urban form. (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B201 INTRODUCTION TO GIS FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

*Liv Raddatz*

This course is designed to introduce the foundations of GIS with emphasis on applications for social and environmental analysis. It deals with basic principles of GIS and its use in spatial analysis and information management. Ultimately, students will design and carry out research projects on topics of their own choosing. Prerequisite: At least sophomore standing and Quantitative Readiness are required (i.e., the quantitative readiness assessment or Quan BO01). (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B207 TOPICS IN URBAN STUDIES**

*Jeffrey Cohen*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B217 RESEARCH METHODS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B226 INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**

*Daniela Voith, Samuel Olshin*

This studio design course introduces the principles of architectural design. Suggested Preparation: drawing, some history of architecture, and permission of instructor. (Offered Fall 2017)

### **CITY B227 TOPICS IN MODERN PLANNING**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B228 PROBLEMS IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**

*Daniela Voith, Samuel Olshin*

A continuation of CITY 226 at a more advanced level. Prerequisites: CITY B226 or permission of instructor. (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B229 TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE URBANISM**

*Gary McDonogh*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Current topic description: City, Nature and Culture - Creativity, sprawl, alienation, mobility, nature and artifice --what do developments beyond the metropolis tell us about urban life. Probing suburban places, experiences, imagery and reforms around Paris, Hong Kong, Buenos Aires and Philadelphia, this required major writing seminar examines suburbs for both problems from the past and ideas for the future. (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B250 TOPICS: GROWTH & SPATIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B254 HISTORY OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE**

*Min-Kyung Lee*

A survey of the development of modern architecture since the 18th century. (Offered Fall 2017)

### **CITY B255 SURVEY OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE**

*Staff*

This survey course examines architecture within the global framework of “the modern.” Through an introduction to an architectural canon of works and figures, it seeks to foster a critical consideration of modernity, modernization, and modernism. The course explores each as a category of meaning that framed the theory and practice of architecture as a cultural, political, social, and technological enterprise. It also uses these conjugates to study the modes by which architecture may be said to have framed history. We will study practical and discursive activity that formed a dynamic field within which many of the contradictions of “the modern” were made visible (and visual) through architecture. In this course, we will engage architectural concepts and designs by studying drawings and buildings closely within their historical context. We will examine spheres of reception for architecture and

## **GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF CITIES (BRYN MAWR)**

its theoretical, discursive, and cultural life through a variety of media: buildings of course, but also journals, books, and film. We will also investigate architecture as a site and subject for critical inquiry. In particular, we will see what it may tell us about the globalization and politics of the twentieth century, and about history, theory, and criticism as epistemological tracks. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B278 AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY**

*Staff*

This course explores major themes of American environmental history, examining changes in the American landscape, the history of ideas about nature and the interaction between the two. Students will study definitions of nature, environment, and environmental history while investigating interactions between Americans and their physical worlds. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B298 TOPICS: ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (0.5 credits) (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B306 ADVANCED FIELDWORK TECHNIQUES: PLACES IN TIME**

*Staff*

A workshop for research into the histories of places, intended to bring students into contact with some of the raw materials of architectural and urban history. A focus will be placed on historical images and texts, and on creating engaging informational experiences that are transparent to their evidentiary basis. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B318 TOPICS IN URBAN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL THEORY**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B325 TOPICS IN SOCIAL HISTORY**

*Staff*

This is a topics course that explores various themes in American social history. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B329 ADVANCED TOPICS IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B335 TOPICS IN CITY AND MEDIA**

*Staff*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B345 ADVANCED TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**

*Liv Raddatz*

This is a topics course. Topics vary. Current topic description: How can cities help address today's most pressing environmental problems? Are sustainable urban environments possible, and if so, what would they look like? This course explores these and other questions by examining theories, politics and practices of sustainability in urban contexts from a global perspective. (Offered Fall 2017)

### **CITY B360 TOPICS: URBAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

*Liv Raddatz*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Current topic description: This course explores intersections of migration, labor, and cities in today's globalized economy. We will examine how broad trends have shaped labor markets in different urban contexts and shed light on the central role of migrant workers within them. Gaining a deeper understanding of migrant workers' experiences, struggles and contributions is a key objective of the course. (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B365 TOPICS: TECHNIQUES OF THE CITY**

*Gary McDonogh*

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Current topic description: Fragmentation, Enclaves, and the Future of Global Cities - Ghettos. Gated Communities. Chinatowns. Cities have been and continue to be fragmented in multiple ways in space, meaning and experience, based on political economics, social formations and culture. From the Jewish ghetto of Venice to contemporary Chinatowns, the divided Philadelphia of W.E.B. DuBois to the gilded ghettos of contemporary gated communities, we will explore divided cities as historical process and future challenge. (Offered Spring 2018)

## **GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF CITIES (BRYN MAWR)**

### **CITY B377 TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE**

*Min-Kyung Lee*

This is a topics course on modern architecture. Topics vary. Current topic description: This class offers the students the opportunity to engage architecture, architectural and urban history in a seminar format. For advanced majors but also open to others in history or history of art by permission of the instructor. (Offered Fall 2017)

### **CITY B378 FORMATIVE LANDSCAPES: THE ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING OF AMERICAN COLLEGIATE CAMPUSES**

*Jeffrey Cohen*

The campus and buildings familiar to us here at the College reflect a long and rich design conversation regarding communicative form, architectural innovation, and orchestrated planning. This course will explore that conversation through varied examples, key models, and shaping conceptions over time. (Offered Spring 2018)

### **CITY B398 SENIOR SEMINAR**

*Gary McDonogh, Jeffrey Cohen, Liv Raddatz*

An intensive research seminar designed to guide students in writing a senior thesis. (Offered Fall 2017)

### **CITY B403 INDEPENDENT STUDY**

*Staff*

Advanced Fieldwork: Places in Time - This class offers the students the opportunity to do advanced directed fieldwork/archival study in architecture, architectural history, preservation and urban history under supervision of the professor with occasional collective meetings. For advanced majors but also open to others in history or history of art by permission. (Offered Fall 2017)

### **CITY B415 TEACHING ASSISTANT**

*Staff*

An exploration of course planning, pedagogy and creative thinking as students work to help others understand pathways they have already explored in introductory and writing classes. This opportunity is available only to advanced students of highest standing by professorial invitation. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B425 PRAXIS III: INDEPENDENT STUDY**

*Staff*

Praxis III courses are Independent Study courses and are developed by individual students, in collaboration with faculty and field supervisors. A Praxis course is distinguished by genuine collaboration with fieldsite organizations and by a dynamic process of reflection that incorporates lessons learned in the field into the classroom setting and applies theoretical understanding gained through classroom study to work done in the broader community. (Not offered 2017-2018)

### **CITY B450 URBAN INTERNSHIPS/PRAXIS**

*Staff*

Individual opportunities to engage in praxis in the greater Philadelphia area; internships must be arranged prior to registration for the semester in which the internship is taken. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. (Offered Fall 2017 and Spring 2018)