

# Department of Urban Studies and Planning

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Advising Handbook

Fall 2010

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**ADVISING HANDBOOK**  
*(Last Revised August 12, 2010)*

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**Important note: This Advising Document is a living document updated based on faculty input and discussion. Students should always refer to the SFSU Bulletin for official University approved requirements. <http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/> and the Registrar's Office for special announcements about satisfying graduation requirements (e.g., Executive Directive to facilitate graduation document). Registrar's office website: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/reg.html>**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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## **Introduction**

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers an interdisciplinary curriculum in urban planning and policy.

The major reflects a social science education with an applied, problem-solving focus, training in research methods, and practical hands-on experience in a carefully supervised internship and a practicum (senior seminar). Core courses integrate social science perspectives into the study of cities, develop the research and analytic tools necessary for urban planning and urban policy analysis, offer hands-on applied research experience. Elective courses are designed to apply the basic core course content to urban planning and urban policy areas of interest.

Cities have always been the locus of change and innovation in society, continuously generating new possibilities and opportunities for human experience while at the same time giving rise to new problems requiring public attention. The processes of globalization have brought enormous new challenges to urban areas. Global investment decisions and “free trade” affect not only jobs and economic opportunities but cultural expectations, population movements, and environmental change. As critical nodes in these global processes, cities play a critical role in responding to these new changes.

Nowhere are these changes, and public efforts to respond to these changes, more evident than in the San Francisco Bay Area with its integral connection to the global economy. Rapid population growth, continuous economic restructuring, and sprawling development patterns have combined to produce a dynamic and ongoing process of urban transformation and an ongoing agenda for public policy. New organizations have emerged to demand new policy initiatives focusing on both global and local needs: environmental sustainability and social justice at the global level require “smart growth” and regional equity at the local level.

How do we create smart growth and regional equity? What are the policy and planning tools which can be used to promote affordable housing, transit-oriented development, living wage employment, and sustainable development? These are the kinds of questions addressed by the Urban Studies and Planning curriculum.

A fundamental mission of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at San Francisco State University is to prepare students to address issues of urban planning and policy in cities throughout the world. Our department is founded upon the conviction that urban universities have a unique opportunity as well as responsibility to work with their communities both in educating future urban professionals and in developing innovative approaches to critical urban issues.

The Urban Studies and Planning curriculum provides both a high-quality liberal arts education and rigorous preparation for careers in planning and public policy. Drawing upon the complementary perspectives of the basic social science disciplines, it develops a broad-based understanding of the historical evolution and current condition of urban areas. Applied research and data analysis using cutting-edge information technology are emphasized, as are essential analytic and conceptual skills necessary for planning, policy-making and evaluation. Critical contemporary issues are addressed through substantive courses focused on policy areas such as sustainable urban development, housing and community development, land use, poverty, transportation, environmental justice, and social policy. Hands-on practical experience is given particular emphasis through carefully supervised internships and a senior seminar in which teams of student consultants produce projects for local agencies and organizations.

Our department has been unusually fortunate in attracting talented and motivated students from diverse backgrounds who are concerned about urban life and want to play a role in the effort to improve urban

life. These students have made significant contributions as interns and researchers; as alumni, they have gone on to work in public, private, and nonprofit organizations throughout the area. The network of contacts which we maintain with our alumni provides solid evidence of the opportunities available to graduates with a B.A. degree in Urban Studies and Planning and of their continuing contribution and commitment to the larger urban community.

## **Urban Studies and Planning Mission Statement**

- To prepare 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.
- To help Bay Area communities through applied research and other faculty and student activities.
- To play a central role in SF State efforts to serve the Bay Area community.

## **Jobs and graduate school opportunities**

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning is strongly committed to providing information and assistance to our students as they explore job and graduate school opportunities. We maintain a wide network of regular contacts with alumni, internship supervisors, and other sources of employment information. We receive numerous job and internship announcements which are posted and circulated. Alumni forums are held annually, with alumni invited back to share employment experience and advice with current students. We publish an alumni directory with information about recent alumni who are willing to be contacted by current students: the most recent directory (Spring 2010) included more than four hundred alumni. All of this allows us to provide useful information to current students regarding job opportunities, suggestions regarding people to talk to about job possibilities and graduate schools, and specific referrals for job openings.

The Urban Studies and Planning curriculum prepares students for a wide variety of careers in urban life. Recent graduates are employed throughout the Bay Area and other regions in planning departments, private consulting firms, housing and community development agencies, employment development programs, transportation planning bodies, social service organizations, banks, real estate and other private sector organizations (usually in their research, planning, or public affairs divisions) and a variety of nonprofits and community-based groups.

The Urban Studies and Planning major is also recognized as a very good basis for graduate study. Recent program graduates have gone on to graduate work in schools of city and regional planning (Cornell, Harvard, U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Los Angeles, Columbia, New York University, University of Texas, Pratt Institute, San Diego State, and San Jose State), schools of public policy and administration (U.C. Berkeley, Georgetown, the Kennedy School at Harvard University, University of Washington, Cornell, SF State), schools of law (Boalt, Hastings, U.S.F., and Golden Gate), and other graduate fields including architecture, journalism, public health, education, social work, and business administration.

**Employment Experience of Graduates  
Partial List**

Alameda County Children and Families Commission  
Alameda County Planning Department  
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSME)  
American Lung Association of California  
Asian Neighborhood Design  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
Bay Area LISC  
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center  
Beverly Prior Architects  
Brion and Associates  
California Department of Industrial Relations  
California Department of Transportation  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Caltrans  
Daly City Economic Development Dept.  
East Bay Asian Youth Center  
Economic and Planning Systems  
Environmental Science Associates  
El Basani & Logan Architects  
Fremont Planning Department  
City of Foster City Planning Division  
City of Garden City, Idaho  
KCA Engineers, Inc.  
Larkspur Planning Department  
Mission Economic Development Associates  
New York City Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development  
Oakland Office of Economic Development  
Newark Department of Community Development  
Novoradac & Co.  
Public Policy Institute of California  
Reuben & Junius  
City of San Bruno Community Development Department  
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
San Francisco Department of City Planning  
San Francisco Housing Authority  
San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Families  
San Francisco MUNI  
San Francisco MTA  
San Francisco Police Department  
San Mateo Department of City Planning  
San Jose Department of Planning  
City of Seattle Department of Housing and Human Services  
TODCO  
Site Perfect Research, Inc.  
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
University of California at Berkeley, Center for Labor Research and Education  
City of Vallejo Planning Division

## Requirements for the B.A. in Urban Studies and Planning

**Core requirements.** The core Urban Studies and Planning B.A. requirements consist of courses which develop a solid foundation in the following major areas of the curriculum:

1. Introductory Course: lecture and discussion on seminal basic and contemporary writings on the most important topics in urban studies and planning. Intensive practice in written and oral communication skills.
  - USP 401: Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GWAR
2. Research Methods and Data Analysis: providing the basic tools necessary for effective research and analysis.
  - USP 492: Research Methods
  - USP 493: Data Analysis
3. Foundation course in policy or planning: developing the conceptual and analytic approaches necessary for effective action intended to address current urban issues.
  - One of the following courses:
    - USP 480: Intro to Urban Policy and Analysis\*
    - USP 658 Land Use Planning
4. Cross-disciplinary perspectives: two of the following urban-focused social science courses
  - USP 432: Urban Geography
  - USP 470: City in a Global Society
  - USP 512: Urban Politics
  - USP 535: Urban Economics
5. Internship: to supplement the academic curriculum by allowing students to apply and test what they have learned in the classroom against the practice of operating organizations. (Both courses must be taken simultaneously during the same semester from the same instructor).
  - USP 603: Public Service Internship
  - USP 604: Internship Seminar
6. Senior Seminar: Independent research project
  - USP 680: Senior Seminar
7. Electives/Foci of Interest: The electives are courses focusing on particular issue areas in which the theoretical and analytic approaches developed in the core courses are applied to critical contemporary issues. This allows students to develop familiarity and some expertise in an urban planning and policy area. Major areas include housing, transportation, land-use planning, sustainable development, and social policy
  - Courses chosen in consultation with and approved by your advisor.

\*Many Urban Studies and Planning courses are cross-listed with other departments. For cross-listing information, see course descriptions, pp. 16-23.

**Planning your major**  
**Recommended sequencing of coursework in the major**

**Core courses**

1. **Introductory seminar:**

USP 401 provides a broad introduction to the field of Urban Studies and Planning and should be taken during the first semester in the program if possible and no later than the second semester. It is offered every semester.

2. **Research methods and Data Analysis:**

USP 492 should be taken during the first semester; it is the foundation course in research methods and should be taken prior to USP 493.

USP 493 should be taken as soon as possible after USP 492.

- Both courses provide skills which will be important in subsequent courses. These courses are offered every semester.

3. **Foundation course in policy or planning:**

USP 480 or USP 658 should be taken relatively early after the first semester as they provide the analytic foundation for the more specialized issue courses. USP 480 is offered once per year. USP 658 is offered every semester.

4. **Cross-disciplinary Perspectives:**

The basic cross-disciplinary courses should be taken early in the program.

5. **Fieldwork:**

The internship, USP 603/604, should be taken after you have some coursework--some knowledge and skills to apply, and some qualifications--under your belt. The internship should be done prior to the senior seminar, as the internship experience is very useful in developing senior seminar projects. Planning for the internship must begin the semester prior to the one in which you want to work. The internship is offered every semester.

6. **Practical Applications:**

The senior seminar, USP 680, is offered every semester (one in the fall and one in the spring) and should be taken during your last or next-to-last semester. Students need to have completed most of the core courses, including the research methods and data analysis and conceptual foundations courses, prior to taking the senior seminar. (see prerequisites in the Bulletin).

7. **Electives/Foci of Interest:**

Elective courses give you an opportunity to focus more specifically in your particular areas of interest. We offer elective courses in land use planning, housing policy and planning, transportation, poverty, sustainable development, and environmental justice. Electives should be taken throughout your program: they provide the opportunity to apply the analytic approaches and skills that you are using to concrete and current policy issues. Electives are generally offered only once a year: consultation with your advisor is critical to ensuring that you plan your schedule so as to be able to take the electives of your choice when they are offered.

Note: Courses in General Education SEG I, II & III, JEPET, English and math proficiency required by the University for graduation should be taken as soon as possible. USP 401 is a GWAR course.



## Roadmap for Majors

### Prior to Junior Year:

- Familiarize yourself with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning website (<http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs>)
- Familiarize yourself with the College of BSS website (<http://bss.sfsu.edu>)
- Familiarize yourself with the University Bulletin & GE requirements (<http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/current/bull-tc.htm>)
- Complete all GE Segment I and II courses
- After completing ENG 214, take JEPET or USP 401 - GVAR

<b>JUNIOR YEAR (1<sup>st</sup> year taking USP major courses if you start in fall semester)</b>			
<b>First Semester (Fall)</b>		<b>Second Semester (Spring)</b>	
Course	Units	Course	Units
• USP 401 – Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GVAR	3	• USP 493 - Data Analysis	4
• USP 492 – Research Methods	4	• Cross-disciplinary Course	3-4
• USP 480 – Policy Analysis OR	4	• Major Elective	3-4
• USP 658 – Land Use Planning	4	• Major Elective (if possible)	3-4
<b>SENIOR YEAR (2<sup>nd</sup> year taking URBS major courses)</b>			
<b>Third Semester (Fall)</b>		<b>Fourth Semester (Spring)</b>	
Course	Units	Course	Units
• USP 603 - Public Service Internship	3	• USP 680 - Senior Seminar	4
• USP 604 – Internship Seminar	1	• Major Elective (if needed)	3-4
• Cross-disciplinary Course	3-4	• Major Elective	3-4
• Major Elective (if possible)	3-4		

**Total Units for Major: 43-45**

<b>JUNIOR YEAR (1<sup>st</sup> year taking USP major courses if you start in spring semester)</b>			
<b>First Semester (Spring)</b>		<b>Second Semester (Fall)</b>	
Course	Units	Course	Units
• USP 401 – Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GWAR	3	• USP 493 - Data Analysis	4
• USP 492 – Research Methods	4	• USP 480 – Intro to Urban Policy & Analysis OR	4
• Cross-disciplinary Course	3-4	• USP 658 – Land Use Planning	4
• Major Elective	3-4	• Cross-disciplinary Course OR	3-4
		• Major Elective	3-4
<b>SENIOR YEAR (2<sup>nd</sup> year plus one semester additional taking URBS major courses)</b>			
<b>Third Semester (Spring)</b>		<b>Fourth Semester (Fall)</b>	
Course	Units	Course	Units
• USP 603 - Public Service Internship	3	• Disciplinary Course	3-4
• USP 604 – Internship Seminar	1	• Cross-disciplinary Course (if needed)	3-4
• Cross-disciplinary Course	3-4	• Major Elective (if needed)	3-4
• Major Elective	3-4		
<b>Fifth Semester (Spring)</b>			
Course	Units		
• USP 680 - Senior Seminar	4		
• Cross-disciplinary Course (if needed)	3-4		
• Major Elective (if needed)	3-4		

**Total Units for Major: 43-45**

### **Grading policy**

**Minimum GPA:** All students who enter the program as majors and minors are required to receive at least a grade of "C" in all core courses required for the Urban Studies and Planning major or minor (including electives) in order to fulfill a major requirement.

**Credit/No Credit:** All Urban Studies and Planning major or minor courses (including electives) must be taken for a letter grade; in other words students will not be allowed to take these courses for credit/no credit.

### **Choosing an advisor**

All students must consult regularly (during fall and spring semesters) with their advisor regarding course requirements, scheduling, and selecting an appropriate set of electives. Students should maintain their own "Advising Checklist" (see the sample on p.12); advisors maintain a copy on file in their faculty offices as a record of progress as well as of approved substitutions. Students are encouraged to select an advisor whose areas of interest correspond to those of the student.

### **Course load**

In deciding how many courses to take each semester, it is helpful to recall the basic university formula for calculating the hours of work required for each course: a minimum of two hours per week of class for every one unit of credit. Thus you should plan on at least six hours of outside work (reading, reviewing, writing papers, etc) for a 3-unit class and at least eight hours of outside work for a 4-unit class.

### **Summer courses**

We offer a few USP courses during the summer school session such as: USP 400, USP 530, and USP 535 as resources permit.

### **Note to lower division students**

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers one lower-division course, USP 200, Changing Cities occasionally. This course provides a broad introduction to the kinds of issues addressed by the Urban Studies and Planning curriculum and a taste of the kind of hands-on experience we emphasize, including field trips and contacts with local public and advocacy organizations. Anyone interested in city life is encouraged to take this course, and it meets GE Segment II requirements. Lower-division students are encouraged to explore the possibility of an Urban Studies and Planning major by talking with an advisor and taking one or more Urban Studies and Planning courses which interest them. In addition, if you are interested in becoming an Urban Studies and Planning major, you may take USP 400 and some of the other course before your junior year. Your advisor can help you select the most appropriate courses.

### Advising Checklist

<b>Required Core Courses</b>	<i>Date Taken will take</i>	<i>Date approved by</i>	<i>Substitute</i>
USP 401: Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GWAR**	_____	_____	_____
<u>Two</u> of the following:			
USP 432: Urban Geography	_____	_____	_____
USP 470: City in a Global Society	_____	_____	_____
USP 512: Urban Politics	_____	_____	_____
USP 535: Urban Economics	_____	_____	_____
USP 492: Research Methods	_____	_____	_____
USP 493: Data Analysis (after USP 492)	_____	_____	_____
<u>Either</u> USP 480: Intro to Urban Policy & Analysis	_____	_____	_____
<u>or</u> USP 658: Land Use Planning	_____	_____	_____
USP 603/604: Internship	_____	_____	_____
USP 680: Senior Seminar	_____	_____	_____

**ELECTIVES:**

	<i>Date Taken</i>	<i>Date will take</i>
USP 400: Dynamics of the American City	_____	_____
USP 433: Urban Transportation	_____	_____
USP 456: Community Organizing	_____	_____
USP 470: City in a Global Society*	_____	_____
USP 475: Selected Issues in Urban Studies	_____	_____
USP 480: Intro to Urban Policy & Analysis*	_____	_____
USP 485: San Francisco Political Issues	_____	_____
USP 512: Urban Politics*	_____	_____
USP 513: Politics, Law, & Urban Environment	_____	_____
USP 514: Sustainable Development in Cities	_____	_____
USP 515: Environmental Justice	_____	_____
USP 530: Alternative Urban Futures	_____	_____
USP 535: Urban Economics*	_____	_____
USP 555: Urban Anthropology	_____	_____
USP 560: Urban Poverty and Policy	_____	_____
USP 565: Social Policy Family Systems	_____	_____
USP 570: Urban Health Policy	_____	_____
USP 580: Housing Policy & Planning	_____	_____
USP 582: Homelessness and Public Policy	_____	_____
USP 652: Environmental Impact Analysis	_____	_____
USP 658: Land Use Planning*	_____	_____
USP 660: Nonprofit organizations in Urban Life	_____	_____
USP 677: Seminar in Urban Studies	_____	_____
USP 685: Projects in Teaching URBS	_____	_____
USP 686: Fieldwork in Urban Analysis	_____	_____
USP 699: Independent Study	_____	_____

Approved Alternatives:

\*Courses not used as core courses may be used as electives

\*\*Students must complete the CSU Graduating Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). If a student began college before Fall 2009, GWAR will either be met by earning a C grade or higher in USP 401 or by passing JPET.

Advising Record

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bulletin Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Advisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**URBAN STUDIES & PLANNING** *San Francisco State University*



**ADVISING CHECKLIST**

**OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS**

Introductory seminar and Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives	10-11
Research Methods Sequence	8
Foundation Course in Policy or Planning	4
Field Work and Practical Applications	8
Electives/Focus of Interest	13-14

**Total units required for a B.A. Degree in Urban Studies 43-45**

## CORE COURSES \*

### *Introductory Seminar and Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	SEMESTER COMPLETED	SEMESTER PLANNED	GRADE
401	Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GWAR	3			

### *Complete two of the following courses:*

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	SEMESTER COMPLETED	SEMESTER PLANNED	GRADE
512	Urban Politics	4			
535	Urban Economics	3			
432	Urban Geography	4			
480	City in a Global Society	4			

\* Courses which are not taken as art of the core may be taken as electives.

### *Research Methods Sequence*

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	SEMESTER COMPLETED	SEMESTER PLANNED	GRADE
492	Research Methods	4			
493	Data Analysis	4			

### **Foundation Course in Policy or Planning: Choose one**

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	SEMESTER COMPLETED	SEMESTER PLANNED	GRADE
480	Intro to Urban Policy & Analysis	4			
658	Land Use Planning	4			

### **Field Work and Practical Application**

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	SEMESTER COMPLETED	SEMESTER PLANNED	GRADE
603/604	Public Service Internship & Seminar	4			
680	Senior Seminar	4			

### *ELECTIVES* (Select from below or approved alternatives chosen w/your advisor)

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	COMPLETED	PLANNED	GRADE
400	Dynamics of American City	3			
433	Urban Transportation	4			
456	Urban Community Organizing	3			
475	Selected Issues in Urban Studies	3			
470	City in a Global Society*	4			
480	Intro to Urban Policy & Analysis *	4			
485	San Francisco Political Issues	4			
512	Urban Politics	4			
513	Politics, Law & Urban Env.	4			
514	Sustainable Development in Cities	4			
515	Environmental Justice	4			
530	Alternative Urban Futures	3			
535	Urban Economics *	3			
555	Urban Anthropology *	3			
557	Urban Ethnography	4			
560	Urban Poverty & Policy	4			
565	Social Policy and the Family	4			
570	Urban Health Policy	3			
580	Housing Policy & Planning	3			
582	Homelessness and Public Policy	3			
651	Environmental Issues of SF Bay	4			
652	Environmental Impact Analysis	4			
658	Land Use Planning *	4			
660	Nonprofit Organizations in Urban Life	3			
667	Seminar in Urban Studies	3			
686	Fieldwork in Urban Analysis	1-4			

699	Independent Study	1-3			
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**APPROVED ALTERNATIVES**

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	COMPLETED	PLANNED	GRADE

Approved substitutes should be recorded here and signed by your advisor (or attach email approval from your advisor) (Make sure to bring a copy to your next advising meeting in addition to your unofficial transcript and DARS report for best advising results)



## USP Courses

### USP/SOC 200: Changing Cities (3 units, Occasional)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the excitement of trying to understand city life and the challenge of trying to make cities more socially just and environmentally sustainable.

The course introduces the basic dimensions of urban analysis--historical, economic, political, social, cultural, spatial and then provides broad overview of metropolitan change in the United States over the last half century. We then look more closely at the impact of globalization over the last decade, using San Francisco as a key example. Critical issues are identified, including reducing poverty and social inequality, creating strong communities and providing affordable housing, making cities more environmentally sustainable (reducing sprawl, developing "smart growth," and other "green city" initiatives), and building effective citizenship in a global city. We look at strategies for addressing these issues and agencies and organizations which are involved in promoting change. The course emphasizes personal experience and reflection as well as social science analysis.

### USP 400/HIST 489: Dynamics of the American City (3 units; F, S)

*Prerequisites: ENG 214 or equivalent; upper division standing or consent of instructor.*

This is the introductory course for all Urban Studies and Planning majors and minors. It should be taken during the first semester of a student's participation in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. In URBS 400 students learn about urban history, social science perspectives on cities, and urban issues. Topics include how American cities evolved, the disciplinary perspectives historians, political scientists, geographers, sociologists, economists, and city planners apply to the study of cities. Classic and cutting-edge writings about the city, and urban issues such as poverty and inequality, environmental protection, urban transportation, and housing affordability. Special attention is given to social class, gender, and ethnic diversity in urban America.

### USP 401 GW: Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning - GVAR (3 units, F, S)

*Prerequisites: Eng 214 or equivalent; upper division standing or consent of instructor.*

Lectures and discussion of seminal classic and contemporary writings on the most important topics in Urban Studies. Intensive practice in written and oral communication skill. Only open to Urban Studies and Planning majors and minors or with consent of instructor.

### USP/GEOG 432: Urban Geography (4 units, F, S)

*Prerequisites: ENG 214 or equivalent*

This is a core course that focuses on space in the city, in which locational principles as they relate to societal constraints are examined. The emphasis is on physical structure, the where, why, and so what of buildings, districts, and the relative location of these components. Past patterns are examined in detail as a prelude to examining the patterns of the present city. The order of the classical city, the medieval city, and the city of the industrial revolution is examined in relation to its physical organization, and this spatial structure is then related to the societal and institutional forces that affect this shaping. This is essentially a liberal arts approach to the city. (*Offered by the Geography department.*)

\*\* Note: F or S following the course title indicates the most likely course offering plan:

F = Fall; S = Spring. However this plan may be varied: you must consult your advisor for current information on planned course scheduling.

USP/GEOG 433: Urban Transportation (4 units; S)

Urban Transportation stresses the analysis of problems and the application of metropolitan planning methodology. The transportation consumption function is described. Interrelationships among urban transportation systems, human behavior and metropolitan land-use patterns are analyzed. The concept of a balanced transportation system is presented. An analysis is made of the effects of the automobile and mass transit on patterns or urban activities. Trip generation, trip distribution, modal splits and trip assignment are modeled. Alternatives are evaluated. (*Offered by the Geography department.*)

USP/SW 456: Urban Community Organizing & Citizen Action (3 units, F)

*Prerequisites: S W 400, S W 401, S W 402 or consent of instructor.*

This course examines the theory and practice of community organizing. In what ways can people articulate their interests and effect social change? Topics include: turning community concerns into specific issues, how to put an organization together, leadership development, strategy and tactics, negotiations, use of the media, and fundraising in the organizing process. This course includes speakers presently involved with community organization efforts in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Students are required to observe, analyze, and report on a community organization's activities. (*Offered by the School of Social Work.*)

USP 470/SOC 480: City in a Global Society (4 units, S)

*Prerequisites: completion of GE Segment I requirements including ENG 214 or equivalent and upper division standing*

This course applies the sociological perspective to urban phenomena, looking at the process of urbanization and urbanism as a way of life. It starts with early urban forms and moves toward the city in the modern industrial nation. It covers such topics as the social structure of cities, the social psychology of urbanites, the rural-to-urban shift, and the relationship between city form and social organization.

USP 475: Selected Issues in Urban Studies (3 units, occasional)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing and consent of instructor.*

This is the "variable topic" course in Urban Studies which allows the program to offer special courses on topics of particular interest.

USP/PLSI 480: Introduction to Urban Policy & Analysis (4 units, F)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing.*

This course is designed to introduce students to the common language of policy analysis. It covers core analytical concepts used by policy analysts and introduces basic methods of doing policy analysis. It discusses rationales for public policy and limits of government intervention in markets. It covers generic methods of doing policy analysis in organizational settings like cost benefit analysis, stakeholder analysis, and goals/alternatives matrices. The course introduces students to what policy analysis is, what policy analysts do, and different settings where policy analysts work. Students select a policy problem and identify policy options based on a careful analysis of the issue following standard problem solving methods: develop a problem statement, do a literature review, identify alternatives, identify tradeoffs, and develop recommendations for action. Students present the results of their policy analysis projects in class using PowerPoint slides. Class discussions use exemplary and current policy analysis reports produced by policy organizations (e.g., PPIC, GAO, RAND) on energy policy, infrastructure policy, land use policy, housing policy, social policy, etc. This course provides a solid foundation for students who work on client-serving projects in the senior seminar.

USP 485/PLSC 475: San Francisco Political Issues (4 units, F)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing.*

This course examines the politics of economic development and affordable housing in San Francisco.

This provides a window into the broader dynamics and conflicts which mark politics in general in San Francisco, as well as providing insight on several of the most critical issues for working men and women in the city and region. The course develops a historical perspective in order to better understand the players, the stakes, and the results which continue to frame the debates of today. It pays special attention to the struggles over high-rise development, the demand for affordable housing as part of new development, and the different movements seeking to define healthy neighborhoods and a livable city. Students participate in research projects generated through discussion with non-profit and community-based organizations working on those issues. The course is usually co-taught by Brian Murphy, a political scientist who is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Urban Institute at SFSU and a team of community practitioners such as Sharen Hewitt, Liaison to the San Francisco Housing Authority for the SF Department of Human Services, and Calvin Welch, Program Director of the San Francisco Information Clearinghouse and a long-time activist. (*Offered by the Political Science Department*)

USP/PLSI 492: Research Methods (4 units, F, S)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing*

This course will provide students with an overview of research methods in the social sciences. This is an applied course; the emphasis is on imparting both conceptual understanding and skills students can use in future coursework and work. The course is organized to address the following research methods questions and issues: How can a social science researcher turn a topic of interest into a researchable question? How do social scientists collect information to address the questions they have framed? What goes into a research design? How do social scientists and public policy researchers contextualize their research using literature reviews? What is the value of a literature review? How do researchers access library books from on-line library catalogues and journal articles from on-line journal databases? How do researchers access information from the worldwide web? How do researchers examine and address ethnical issues in their research? What distinguishes well-formulated questions from poorly formulated ones? What are different ways to measure social phenomena? What is qualitative data, how do social scientists and public policy researchers gather it, and how is it used. What is quantitative data, how it is gathered, and how is it used in social science and public policy research? What do we mean by: archival research, observation, participant observation, interviews, surveys, focus groups, and secondary data analysis? How can these methods be used to conduct research? Why and how do researchers use multiple research methods to collection information? How do researchers obtain quantitative data and get it into electronic format appropriate for analysis? What does it take to design, conduct, and analyze person-to-person, mail, and phone surveys? How do researchers select survey samples? How do researchers obtain qualitative data and get it into electronic format appropriate for analysis? What are computerized statistical packages? Why and how do researchers use the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)? How do researchers effectively communicate research findings through written reports, charts, maps, and tables, visual representations of quantitative information, images, PowerPoint presentations, and oral briefings? USP 492 also introduces students to urban spatial analysis using GIS software.

USP/PLSI 493: Data Analysis (4 units, F, S)

*Prerequisites: USP/PLSI 492 or equivalent*

This course is the second course in the Urban Studies research methods requirement. It should be taken after completing USP 492 or equivalent (e.g., PLSI 300). It is structured as a 2-hr lecture and 2-hr computer lab course. It is designed to introduce students to a range of commonly used quantitative methods of data analysis in urban policy, planning, and public administration. The course emphasizes the use of various practical methods appropriate to analyzing planning and policy problems and building a conceptual framework for reasoning about planning and policy issues. Methods for analyzing primary and secondary data are introduced. Statistical formulas are downplayed. The course starts by introducing spatial analysis of data using ArcView GIS. Then, students analyze San Francisco demographics and housing conditions at the neighborhood level using U.S. census data with Excel tables and charts.

Population projection methods (e.g., cohort-survival model) and county-level employment projections (e.g., economic base analysis) are introduced. A third of the course covers standard descriptive and inferential statistics. Students learn to do hypothesis testing, univariate, bivariate, and multivariate analysis using SPSS and learn to apply these tools in social science and public policy analysis.

USP/PLSI 512: Urban Politics and Community Power (4 units)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing*

This course provides an introduction to urban politics and policy-making. It is intended to provide students with the knowledge and analytic tools with which to understand and operate within the political system through which so much of the quality of urban life is determined. The historical evolution and current range of formal political institutions are examined, with particular emphasis upon the political causes and consequences of formal institutional variations. Patterns of participation, influence, and power and their variation by class, race, and ethnicity are discussed, with particular attention to the recent efforts of minority groups to gain access to established urban political system. Substantive problems confronting urban political systems and policies which have been addressed to them are analysed; and the relationships between urban, regional, state, and federal policy systems are examined. Finally, policy recommendations and political strategies for change are explored. (*Offered by the Political Science department.*)

USP/PLSI/513/GEOG 668: Politics, Law & the Urban Environment (4 units, F)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing or consent of instructor*

This course introduces students to the American legal system and how it affects cities. The role of lawyers, planners, citizens, and judges in managing urban growth, resources, and the environment. Topics include: private nuisance law, zoning, subdivision law, condemnation and inverse condemnation, growth management, development rights transfers, NEPA, and CEQA. Students prepare legal urban policy reports or participate in a moot court to practice legal argumentation.

USP 514: Sustainable Development in Cities. (4 units, F)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing or consent of instructor*

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an academic arena in which to explore issues related to sustainable urban development. The term “sustainable development” is used widely by numerous organizations, including: the Sierra Club, Urban Habitat, the United Nations, Shell Oil, and Monsanto. Each of these organizations defines the term differently. In this course, the term “sustainable urban development” is defined as: planning and policy approaches and appropriate technologies that can be used to minimize a city’s impact on the environment while providing urban residents with the infrastructure and services they need to sustain a high quality of urban life. The course focuses on ecologically and socially responsible planning and management of the urban infrastructure in five critical areas: water supply and management, waste minimization and management, energy production and use, transportation, and food systems. Main readings for the course are from the textbook *Alternative Urban Futures: Planning for Sustainable Development in Cities throughout the World* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004). Supplementary readings are provided in a course reader compiled by Professor Pinderhughes each semester. Each class session is framed by assigned readings and a set of questions designed to guide reading and in-class discussion for each session.

USP 515/GEOG 667: Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Urban Environment (4 units, S)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing or consent of instructor.*

This course focuses on understanding the environment, environmental issues, and social movements organized in relation to the environment by examining natural resource utilization, land use planning and policy, and struggles for environmental justice through the critical analyses and lens of race and class. We will focus on four broad themes: First, how complex, multifaceted processes associated with colonialism, urban development, urbanization, and industrialization have led, and continue to lead, to social and

environmental problems and inequalities. Second, how social and economic inequalities play a role (both historical and contemporary) in decisions about the location of environmental pollutants and toxics. Third, how pollution and other assaults on the environment affect different groups of people and have a disproportionate negative impact on low-income people and communities and, on people of color and communities of color around the world. Fourth, how people around the world struggle for environmental and social fairness and justice. Each class session is framed by assigned readings and a set of questions designed to guide reading and in-class discussion for each session.

USP 530: Alternative Urban Futures (3 units; F, S)

*Prerequisites: ENG 214 or equivalent and upper division standing.*

The purpose of this course is to speculate about the probable and possible future of cities and urban society. Interest in the challenges cities face as a result of patterns of industrial urban development and increasing social and economic inequality have increased rapidly in recent years and play a major role in discussions about the future of urban areas. In order to systematically examine a wide range of issues that will impact the future of urban areas, this course is organized around two broad themes affecting the future of cities: (1) problems resulting from patterns of urban industrial development and (2) solutions to these problems that are within our reach. Each class session is framed by assigned readings and a set of questions designed to guide reading and in-class discussion for each session.

USP/ECON 535: Urban Economics (3 units, F, S)

This course focuses on the economic conditions of cities and suburbs. It examines some of the major social and economic problems facing large American cities and their surrounding metropolitan regions. It looks at how cities have developed over time and what causes them to grow. It looks at how and why land is used for different economic functions within cities. It looks at local housing markets and transportation systems connecting housing to jobs and other attractions. It also considers some of the economic causes for the concentration of poverty in inner cities and looks at policies to fight poverty. Finally it speculates about where American cities are headed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To analyze these issues, this course considers location decisions made by individuals and firms within a regional market economy: the benefits as well as problems created by clustering in cities. Mainstream microeconomic analysis is used to look at the role of market forces and equilibrating tendencies. (*Offered by the Economics department*)

USP/ANTHRO 555: Urban Anthropology (4 units, F)

*Prerequisites: one course in cultural anthropology and upper division standing or USP 400.*

Anthropology of cities. Cultural communities within contemporary cities. Adaptation of migrants to urban culture. Urban kinship networks and family structures in urban settings. Assimilation and acculturation. Participation by urban groups in the formal and informal economy. Preservation of ethnic, religious, and nationality-based identities. Application of anthropological insight to the solution of urban problems including employment, family policy, substance abuse, and economic development. (*Offered by the Anthropology department.*)

USP/ANTHRO 557: Ethnography of the Inner City (4 units)

*Prerequisites: USP 555 or consent of instructor*

Students are trained in participant-observation fieldwork techniques and undertake research projects in inner city communities in the Bay Area. (*Offered by the Anthropology department.*)

USP 560: Urban Poverty and Policy (4 units, F)

*Prerequisites: ENG 214 or equivalent*

Urban poverty remains one of the most intractable and tragic problems facing contemporary America. Compounding the genuine and increasing difficulties in addressing this problem is the nature of the public debate, which has generated more rhetorical slogans than useful insight. There is a desperate need for

informed and thoughtful policy analysis which rigorously analyses the causes and possible solutions to this problem. This course will help you develop that analysis: examining the nature and experience of urban poverty, critically reviewing alternative theories of the causes of poverty and their policy implications, and carefully examining the lessons to be learned from past policy efforts. Particular attention is given to the role of education, employment, and family status; gender and race; metropolitan location; and global economic restructuring in shaping the problem and thus the solutions. The role of politics in shaping the policy debate and its outcomes will be analyzed. The ultimate goal of the course is to help you effectively assess the present debate about poverty policy and to develop your own recommendations for more effective policy. Prerequisite: Eng 214 or equivalent.

USP 565: Social Policy and Family Systems (4 units, Occasional)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing.*

The family is the central institution for economic support, nurture, care and the production and socializing of children in American society. While most people associate the family with these functions, governments see families as the most significant vehicle for the transmission of social values, provision of dependent care and for the achievement of broad political and social goals, ranging from political indoctrination to labor market behavior. States are directly affected by how blood ties are defined, roles and responsibilities of family members are determined, issues of custody are decided, property is inherited, and social responsibilities are distributed. This course examines the relationship between the state and the family in American social policy. It examines specific policies that affect families and how the interests of the State are served by these policies. It considers whether the United States has a “family policy” and whether all families benefit equally from existing families policies. The course focuses on the legal and moral concept of “rights,” looking specifically at children’s rights, parent’s rights, medical rights, immigrants’ rights, and more generally, family rights. It also examines specific aspects of economic, labor, immigration, and welfare policy and their effects on families.

USP/LABR/PLSI 570: Urban Health Policy (3 units; Occasional)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing; ENG 214 or equivalent.*

The US health system spends more on health than any other country in the world, yet we rank 20th in infant mortality, and we are the only industrialized country in the world without a universal health program. Our increasingly market-driven health care system threatens access and quality of care, yet costs continue to rise. Our public hospitals are overwhelmed by the growing number of uninsured and underinsured while at the same time their traditional revenue sources are shrinking. Yet crisis has brought opportunity: new proposals for universal health programs are being developed in states around the country (e.g. California’s Health Care Options Project), and incremental policy initiatives to expand coverage (e.g. children’s health insurance programs) and improve quality (e.g. minimum nurse staffing ratios). This course provides an overview of the structure and dynamics of the US health care system as a basis for understanding the causes of the present crises and evaluating proposed solutions. The problems of “vulnerable populations”—the uninsured, immigrants, members of minority groups, special needs populations—are examined. The experience of other countries is considered as a source of suggestions for change.

USP/PLSI 580: Housing Policy & Planning (3 units, S)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing.*

This is an introductory course to housing and community development policy in the United States. The objectives of the course are to provide students with an understanding of how housing markets function, how government and community-based institutions affect housing outcomes, and explore designing housing policies that are consistent with community-based and sustainable community principles. It is organized to acquaint students with basic housing planning and community development concepts (e.g., affordability, rent burden, overcrowding) to critically compare housing market operations and institutions

across localities (e.g., cities, states, countries), and to understand the consequences of alternative government policy choices. Course includes field trips to San Francisco nonprofit housing projects. It features housing professionals as guest speakers, and films (e.g., DSNI, Boom: The Sound of Eviction).

USP/HED 582: Homelessness and Public Policy (3 units, Occasional)

*Prerequisites: completion of critical thinking component of GE.*

Homelessness is a personal crisis for homeless individuals, it is also an economic and moral crisis for the society which allows it to develop and fester. Who are the homeless, why are they homeless, and what can be done about it? This is an on-line course which includes a service-learning component requiring about 40 hours of volunteer work in an organization dealing with the problem of homelessness. Given the fact that San Francisco is "home" to thousands of homeless people, that this city's homeless are among the most politicized and organized in the nation, and that the city has generated a wide range of policy responses, much of the class will be grounded in the experience of homelessness in San Francisco. (*Offered by the Health Education department.*)

USP/PLSI 603: Public Service Internships (3 units, F/S)

*Prerequisites: upper division standing and consent of instructor. Must be taken concurrently with USP 604.*

Fieldwork in approved public, private, non-profit, or political organization under supervision of organization staff and faculty coordinator. (See p. 28 for further details)

USP/PLSI 604: Internship Seminar (1 unit, F/S)

*Prerequisites: Must be taken concurrently with USP 603.*

Analysis of internship experiences. (See p. 28 for further details)

UPS/GEOG 651: San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Issues (4 units, irregular)

Introduction to the mission and work of environmental management organizations. Managing our air, water, soil, wildlife and aesthetic resources. Emphasis on land use and transportation concepts. Field projects are integral to the course. Class work, three units; laboratory, one unit.

(*Offered by the Geography department.*)

USP/GEOG 652: Environmental Impact Analysis (4 units; F)

*Prerequisites: GEOG 103 or consent of instructor.*

The methodology of understanding, analyzing and evaluating environmental impacts in a systematic way. Introductory framework for preparing, organizing, or reviewing environmental impact statements. An integrated approach to the understanding and evaluation of cultural and physical environmental inter-relationships. Synthesis of substantive materials on human environmental processes. Detailed review of the methodology used for evaluating impact proposals, including the systems approach. Reconciliation of physical resource potentials with human needs, including problems of social development impact and environmental quality protection. (*Offered by the Geography department.*)

USP/GEOG 658: Land Use Planning (4 units, F, S)

*Prerequisites: ENG 214 or equivalent.*

This course presents the basic institutions, practice, and methodology of land-use planning. It analyses the relationships of planning to socio-economic objectives within the context of market and political forces. The planning process includes descriptions of existing conditions, identification of problems, statements of objectives, collection of information, analysis of socio-economic and location factors, simulation of changes, evaluation of alternative plans, implementation of development and conservation programs, and incorporation of feedback information. The history and scope of land-use planning, conservation, and development from local to regional levels is surveyed. The comprehensive plan, location analysis,

zoning, and negotiated development are all discussed. In a systematic way, students learn how to work in public and private decision-making fields related to land-use planning conservation and development. *(Also offered by the Geography department.)*

USP/SW 660: The Roles of Nonprofit Organizations in Urban Life (3 units, S)

*Prerequisites: senior standing.*

A growing number of urban needs are now met by nonprofit organizations. This course analyses nonprofit organizations as the "third way" to serve urban society in social services, the arts, housing, environmental and community advocacy. It covers management topics such as: the board, the law, consumers and donors, government relations, income, grants, volunteers, decision-making, innovation and role change. It is designed for students who, through the pursuit of professional careers and/or social and political action, expect to be substantially involved with nonprofit organizations.

USP 680: Urban Studies Senior Seminar (4 units, F, S)

*USP 400 or 401, 492, 493, 480 or 658; USP 603 and 604.*

Practicum in policy and planning. Projects for clients outside the university. Preparation for professional work or continued study upon graduation. Open to seniors in urban studies after completing sufficient USP core requirements. Community Service Learning component. (see page 30 for more details)

USP 685: Projects in the teaching of Urban Studies (1-4 units, F, S)

*Prerequisites: consent of instructor and completion of course (or equivalent) in which student will be assisting.*

Students serve as instructional aides in order to enrich their knowledge of the subject and the general processes of learning and teaching. Help develop course materials, plan and review course structure and activities, and provide assistance to students in class activities such as writing assignments, research projects, and fieldwork. May be repeated for a total of 4 units.

USP 686: Fieldwork in Urban Analysis (1-4 units; F, S)

This is a flexible course intended for students who wish to undertake a directed fieldwork or other research project. It is intended to meet the needs of several distinct groups of students: a) Editors and article writers for URBAN ACTION, the Urban Studies and Planning student journal b) students who want to apply their substantive knowledge and research skills to a specific piece of urban research, and c) small groups of students who wish to organize a one-time study group or project group. USP 686 is for advanced upper division students who are familiar with research methods and the subject matter they wish to study in detail.

USP 699: Independent Study (1-3 units; F, S)

*Prerequisites: consent of instructor.*

Independent studies may be undertaken by students interested in reading in a particular urban area not adequately covered in any available Urban Studies and Planning course. Students interested in an independent study must obtain the consent of and work regularly with a specific Urban Studies and Planning instructor.



## **The Urban Studies and Planning Minor**

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers a minor in Urban Studies and Planning designed to equip students with the general research and analytic skills as well substantive knowledge necessary for work in urban planning and policy. It is ideally suited for students in the social sciences who wish to complement their majors with applied analysis of critical contemporary issues.

The core courses in the minor provide a foundation in urban analysis as well as an introduction to the urban studies and planning field. The electives are chosen from the list of courses below.

### **Requirements for the Urban Studies and Planning Minor**

#### **I. Core Courses:** (Total units: 11)

USP 401, Seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GWAR (3 units)

USP 492, Research Methods (4 units)

Foundation course in policy or planning: one of the following, chosen according to the student's interest:

USP 480, Introduction to Urban Policy & Analysis (4 units)

USP 658, Land Use Planning (4 units)

#### **II. Electives.** (Total units: 9-12)

Three additional courses from the following:

USP 433: Urban Transportation (4)

USP 514: Sustainable Development in Cities (4)

USP 515: Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty and the Urban Environment (4)

USP 560: Urban Poverty and Policy (4)

USP 580: Housing Policy and Planning (3)

USP 652: Environmental Impact Analysis (4)

USP 660: The Roles of Nonprofit Organizations in Urban Life (3)

Approved substitute(s) with consent of advisor (3-4)

Total units for minor: 20-23

## **Department of Urban Studies and Planning Faculty**

### **Permanent Full-time Faculty**

Ashok Das, Assistant Professor  
Ayse Pamuk, Professor & Department Chair  
Raquel Rivera Pinderhughes, Professor  
Jasper Rubin, Assistant Professor

### **Part-time Lecturers**

Carol Silverman  
Frederick Stout

### **Emeriti Faculty**

Richard LeGates, Professor  
Deborah LeVeen, Professor  
Norman Schneider, Professor

## General Education Options

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning is an active participant in the university's General Education program: Urban Studies and Planning courses are included in both Segment II and Segment III. Please refer to the SFSU Bulletin for specific cluster requirements.

### Segment II, Arts and Sciences Core

Segment II requires students to take a minimum of 9 units in three areas of knowledge: Physical and Biological Sciences, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and Humanities and Creative Arts. The Department of Urban Studies and Planning offers one course, USP 200: Changing Cities, in Category B of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Area.

### Segment III, Relationships of Knowledge

Segment III requires students to take 9 units in upper division courses which are organized into clusters covering a wide variety of topics. Begin your Segment III course work only after completing all General Education Segment I requirements and a total of at least 30 units of Segment I and II, but not before. At least one of the courses must meet the Cultural, Ethnic and Social Diversity requirement; courses meeting that requirement are designated by a CESD following the course title.

*Relationship to Urban Studies and Planning major requirements:* Students who choose a cluster with an urban focus, may *double count* two of those courses toward *both Segment III and the requirements for the Urban Studies and Planning major*. However please note that at least one course in your Segment III cluster must be outside the major department (or cross-listed with another department) and may not be counted toward the graduation requirements in the major.

The following is a list of clusters in which the Department of Urban Studies and Planning participates and course numbers for courses which are included in those clusters. (Note: Segment III clusters are frequently modified. For a complete list of current requirements for each of these clusters, be sure to consult the course schedule or the SFSU Bulletin.)

#### California Cultures & Environments

GEOG/USP 651: SF Bay Area Environmental Issues (4)

#### Dynamics of the City

HIST 489/USP 400: Dynamics of the American City (CESD)

GEOG/USP 432: Urban Geography (4)

USP 530: Alternative Urban Futures (CESD)

PLSI/USP 580: Housing Policy & Planning (CESD)

#### Exploring the Future: Next 20 Years

USP 514: Sustainable Development in Cities (4)

USP 530: Alternative Urban Futures (CESD)

#### Family Dynamics & Societal Change

USP 565: Social Policy and Family Systems (CESD)

#### Globalization & Citizenship in Americas

SOC 480/USP 470: City in a Global Society (CESD) (4)

**Health Care Policy**

LABR/PLSI/USP 570: Urban Health Policy (CESD)

**Integrating the Social Sciences**

HIST 489/USP 400: Dynamics of the American City (CESD)

**Making Cities Humane**

HIST 489/USP 400: Dynamics of the American City (CESD)

SOC 480/USP 470: City in Global Society (4)

GEOG 667/USP 515: Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CESD) (4)

ECON/USP 535: Urban Economics

ANTH/USP 555: Urban Anthropology (4)

PLSI/USP 560: Urban Poverty & Policy (CESD) (4)

URBS 565: Social Policy and Family Systems (CESD) (4)

LABR/PLSI/USP 570: Urban Health Policy (CESD)

H ED/USP 582: Homelessness and Public Policy (CESD)

PLSI/SW/USP 660: Roles of Non-Profit Organizations in Urban Life

**Planning the Urban Environment**

HIST 489/USP 400: Dynamics of the American City (CESD)

GEOG/USP 433: Urban Transportation (4)

GEOG 668/PLSI/USP 513: Politics, Law and the Urban Environment (4)

USP 514: Sustainable Development in Cities (4)

GEOG 667/USP 515: Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CESD) (4)

PLSI/USP 580: Housing Policy & Planning (CESD)

**Preservation of a Livable Environment**

GEOG/USP 651: SF Bay Area Environmental Issues (4)

**Understanding Public Policy**

GEOG/USP 433: Urban Transportation (4)

PLSI/USP 480: Introduction to Urban Policy & Analysis (4)

GEOG 667/USP 515: Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CESD) (4)

USP 530: Alternative Urban Futures (CESD)

PLSI/USP 560: Urban Poverty and Policy (CESD) (4)

USP 565: Social Policy and Family Systems (CESD) (4)

LABR/PLSI/USP 570: Urban Health Policy (CESD)

PLSI/USP 580: Housing Policy & Planning (CESD)

## **The Internship and the Internship Seminar**

### **USP/PLSI Internship: 603 (3 units) and 604 (1 unit)**

The internship is a core course required of all Urban Studies majors. It is designed and intended to provide students the opportunity to gain meaningful work experience in their professional area(s) of interest.

#### **Purpose**

The internship supplements the academic curriculum. It allows students to apply and test their urban studies classroom knowledge in a real world work setting, and develop their professional skills. By gaining actual work experience in their respective areas of interest as well as by building contacts with established professionals in those areas, students are able to clarify their career choices and career goals better, and enhance their employment prospects.

Thus, through the internship students develop their knowledge, skills, and contacts, all of which are critical for their future careers. It offers students a taste of the nature of work in a field/organization of their choice, and the critical experience to improve existing skills and learn new ones. Besides their professional development, students also benefit from expanding their network of professional contacts, gaining access to their desired areas of work, and obtaining recommendations from relevant people in their chosen fields.

#### **Timing and placement process**

A student is advised to do the internship relatively late in the program, after s/he has acquired enough skills through coursework to become desirable in terms of job qualifications. The placement process begins in the semester immediately **before** the one in which the student decides to do the internship. All interested students must attend a mandatory informational meeting, which also takes place in the semester **before** the actual internship. Dates for these meetings are posted on the USP/PLSI websites, and as announcements in the USP/PLSI administrative offices. Fall meetings are held in mid-November. Spring meetings are held in mid-April. At the informational meeting, faculty will guide students on how to begin the process of identifying potential internship placements with a template that has been designed to facilitate this process.

#### **Placement identification**

Students are expected to devote sufficient time to identifying potential placements and submitting applications. Final placements must be approved by a faculty member who will be teaching the internship course that semester. Over the years, the Urban Studies and Planning and Political Science Departments have developed contacts and acquired information about numerous public, non-profit, and private agencies, and other organizations and firms suited to provide students with excellent internship opportunities. We have cataloged this information in a handbook that is available to Urban Studies and Political Science students in the administrative office. Students are also encouraged to use the internet and other campus resources (e.g., Institute for Civic and Community Engagement and the Willie Brown Leadership Center) to locate more potential placements.

#### **Course credit and requirements**

The internship is part of the academic curriculum. It is intended to supplement the "theoretical" components of the curriculum and classroom learning by doing "in the field" and "from practical experience". Academic credit for the internship is awarded on the basis of these latter, practice-based forms of learning. The course requirements include: (1) spending 12-15 hours a week in an approved internship

for 12-15 weeks (the fieldwork component); and (2) enrollment in an internship seminar that meets every other week for 2 hours. Students should register for both 603 and 604. Instructor consent is required. The internship course is a designated CSL (community service learning) course, which means that the 3 units of fieldwork appear on the student's transcripts as community service.

For more information about the internship course contact Professor Raquel Rivera Pinderhughes at [raquelrp@sfsu.edu](mailto:raquelrp@sfsu.edu), Professor Ashok Das at [ashokdas@sfsu.edu](mailto:ashokdas@sfsu.edu), or Professor Graeme Boushey at [gboushey@sfsu.edu](mailto:gboushey@sfsu.edu).

## The Senior Seminar

### USP 680: Urban Studies and Planning Senior Seminar (4 units, F,S)

The Urban Studies and Planning Senior Seminar is a *practicum* in urban planning and policy that is the required capstone course for graduating Urban Studies and Planning majors. The course consists of 6-8 projects in which students act as consulting teams to real-world clients in the external community. The students have an opportunity to select from a wide range of projects identified through an RFP process prior to the beginning of the semester. The class meets in a workshop format and features practitioners from the community as guest speakers.

The course is designed to teach students to solve urban planning and policy problems by combining theory, methods, substantive knowledge, and skills in the context of a client-serving project. Students have an opportunity to practice working in a team and prepare a written professional report. The students also have an opportunity to present their findings to a professional jury including the clients and DUSP faculty at the end of the semester in order to learn how to deliver a professional report.

In this course students gain hands-on experience in solving real-world urban planning or policy problems by 1) applying **theory** learned through core (e.g., 400) and disciplinary USP courses; 2) applying **methods** (e.g., research methods, data analysis, policy analysis) learned through 492, 493, and 480; 3) applying substantive area **knowledge** (e.g., housing, land use, law, health, poverty, sustainability) gained through electives; 4) applying **skills** (e.g., web-page construction, PowerPoint presentation, SPSS, GIS, spreadsheets, collaborative team work); 5) combine theory, methods, substantive area knowledge and skills in the context of client-serving projects in the external community; 6) work effectively in a team; and 7) communicate findings in the form of a written and oral professional report.

The course must be taken as close to graduation as possible. It is offered in the fall and spring semesters.

*Prerequisites:* Because the Senior Seminar is essentially a culminating experience, students should have completed almost all of the core requirements before taking the Senior Seminar; in particular, students must have completed Dynamics of the American City (400) or USP 401 (seminar in Urban Studies and Planning-GWAR), research methods (492), data analysis (493), the foundation course (policy analysis or land use planning), and the internship (603/604) with a passing grade (“C” or better). Finally, because of the heavy workload in the Senior Seminar, students are required to consult with their advisors regarding the appropriate course load during that semester.

Power Point slides produced by senior seminar students and other course information can be found at: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/pamuk/SFSUseniorseminar.htm>

For more information about the Senior Seminar contact Professor Ayse Pamuk at [pamuk@sfsu.edu](mailto:pamuk@sfsu.edu) or Professor Jasper Rubin [mjrubin@sfsu.edu](mailto:mjrubin@sfsu.edu) or [sfsu.edu](mailto:sfsu.edu).

## **Department of Urban Studies and Planning Resources and Activities**

### Department Office

The Urban Studies and Planning Department shares an office with the Political Science Department. The office is located in HSS 263 (415-338-1178), which is where faculty mail and messages may be left. The Urban Studies and Planning Department chair's office is HSS 265 (415-338-7045). We also have a resource and activities room (HSS 268) which we share with political science: the room contains a library, computers and offers work space for student activities and class projects.

### PSIRUS Lab

The PSIRUS lab is a computer lab located in HSS 360 which is reserved specifically for Political Science, International Relations, and Urban Studies and Planning students. The lab has PCs and Macintosh computers, scanners and color printers, a copy machine, and great lab assistants. You can learn to use the internet to access and retrieve information, SPSS to analyze urban data, ArcGIS to do spatial analysis, and Power Point to give effective presentations. Bay Area data in the BSS data archive is available for analysis from the PSIRUS lab. Use of these electronic tools is increasingly essential in the urban job market and we have incorporated them into our Urban Studies and Planning courses.

### URBAN ACTION JOURNAL

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning publishes an annual journal called URBAN ACTION. It is edited and produced entirely by students, and consists of high quality student research papers, interviews, photo-essays, and related material of interest. It is an impressive publication and constitutes a great "sample of your work" to show to potential employers or graduate schools. Copies are available in the department office. While Urban Studies and Planning students usually form the majority of editors and contributors, participation by interested students in related majors is encouraged. Academic credit is available through USP 686, Fieldwork in Urban Analysis. Talk to the Urban Studies and Planning faculty if you would like further information. And visit the website for further information:

<http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbanaction/>.

### Alumni Network

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning regularly updates and maintains a listing of recent graduates and their current employment status. This offers an invaluable list of potential job as well as internship contacts for current Urban Studies and Planning students. The department also organizes occasional speaker series, and alumni panels at our annual Alumni Reception. These activities are designed to help maintain good connections between our alumni and our current students.

### Department website

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning maintains a website which contains extensive information about the major and minor as well as links to faculty websites and other valuable resources. The url is <http://bss.sfsu.edu/urbs>.

### Student Email

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning maintains an email list of currently enrolled majors that is used to make announcements and to keep students informed of upcoming events. Please make sure that you check your official SF State email account regularly or set up an email forwarding system.