Course Overview
Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments (UP&SE) provides an overview of contemporary practice related to the design and planning of the built environment for sustainable development. The course reviews the concepts of sustainable urban development, common sectors urban planners work within, and the tools planners use for their work in the context of a central thematic question: How does sustainability play out on the ground – in cities, neighborhoods, and everyday street life?

The physical development of cities is influenced by a complex and interrelated range of social, ecological, economic, and political factors. The course will focus in particular on the spatial expression of these characteristics of urbanization and the implications for both single- and multi-dimensional approaches to sustainable development. Students will find that issues, concepts, and approaches studied in UP&SE relate closely to those covered in Urban Politics and Development (P&D) and Culture and Society (C&S), and that the readings and discussions in all three courses are closely interlinked, providing a comprehensive, integrated framework for analysis of contemporary urban issues.

Course Objectives
- To review concepts of sustainability and the tools urban planners use to achieve sustainable urban development.
- To provide an understanding of the relationships among various urban sectors, infrastructure, and systems and between the built environment and ecological systems.
- To evaluate the role urban planners play in promoting socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development, and;
- To enhance listening, observation, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and facilitation skills.

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
Course Materials
Required readings, compiled in individual course readers, will be distributed at the start of each country program. Thematic readings, listed at the end of the syllabus, are provided for further reference in order to understand an issue in more depth. Students are expected to complete required readings before UP&SE faculty sessions and to use readings for reference in discussions as well as essays. In addition, students are encouraged to make use of thematic readings and IHP in-country libraries and to investigate local resources, including news media. Reading newspapers regularly in each city offers a valuable resource for understanding current issues and debates. Students are also encouraged to use individual initiative to find supplementary resources.

Course Requirements

Participation (15 points)
Students are expected to participate actively in P&D faculty sessions and to complete required readings beforehand. Faculty sessions will be connected to and complemented by site visits and guest lecturers in each city, as well as content from other courses. Participation is more than just showing up or speaking out; it means that you actively contribute to the intellectual growth of the group by thoughtfully engaging with guest lectures, faculty, and fellow students and integrating information from field visits, other courses, observations and discussions from home-stays, daily experiences in the city, and so forth.

Delhi: Stakeholder Postcards (20 points)
For this assignment, students will practice an urban planning tool known as a stakeholder analysis through interviews with Delhi residents about their perspectives on the development of new transportation infrastructure. Students will create a visual collage of each stakeholder in a postcard format. The postcards will be used as discussion tools during a UP&SE session to explore how planners identify and understand the “communities of interest” that form around development issues.

Dakar: Sustainability Audit Guidebook (30 points)
Students will synthesize a range of knowledge and skills from the first half of the UP&SE course in order to create a methodology for measuring whether and how urban spaces contribute to sustainable development. This assignment will require students to closely observe how natural resources, energy, and waste circulate in the built environment in Dakar and to debate what it means for planners to create criteria for measuring these material flows and related urban activities.

Buenos Aires: Case Study (35 points)
Several days in Buenos Aires will be devoted to a case study, an in-depth look at a particular topic or area of interest. Case studies, done in groups, begin with a briefing, followed by two to three days of fieldwork, reflection and student presentations. Details on the specifics of case study will be presented in country. The case study in Buenos Aires will analyzed and presented through a UP&SE lens, accordingly the case study grade for Buenos Aires will count as the UP&SE grade and contributes to the participation grade in CUI. Case studies are graded by all faculty.

Separate sheets will be handed out for each assignment, with detailed instructions and evaluation criteria.

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.
Grading
Faculty will give grades in the form of points and will return assignments with written comments. Faculty will describe the range of points received for the assignment so that a student will know how his/her work compares with the rest of the class. At the end of the semester, your cumulative point score will be calculated in order to determine the final letter grade for the course. Point grades on individual assignments are not directly correlated to letter grades. The final letter grades will be determined on the basis of cumulative points on assignments completed across countries.

For final grades in IHP Cities courses it is useful for both faculty and students to think of letter grades in the following way. An "A" represents truly outstanding work that exemplifies thorough analysis, superior insight, and crystal clear presentation. A "B" signifies highly competent work that accomplishes the task at hand very well, through considerable thought, reasonable analysis, and an organized presentation. A "C" represents adequate work that meets basic requirements but demonstrates no distinction in terms of analytical insight or organization. A "D" is characterized by poorly or partially completed work that reflects a lack of initiative, inconsistent analysis, and/or erratic presentation. Plus and minus indicate relatively better or poorer work within each category. There is no A+.

Course Policies
Attendance and Participation: All students are expected to be present at every program session, with the only exceptions being illness (written note required from a non-IHP adult, e.g. homestay parent, or preferably, health care professional). Unexcused absences and habitual lateness will result in penalties reflected in your participation grade. Please inform the instructor if tardiness is anticipated. All students are expected to come to class on time.

Late work: In keeping with IHP policy, papers handed in late will drop one point per day, unless permission is granted otherwise. Course assignments are due at the beginning of the day.

Plagiarism: All students are responsible for having read the IHP statement on plagiarism, which is available in the IHP Student Handbook. Students are advised that the penalty on IHP for plagiarism may be “...expulsion from the program or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Program Director, subject to approval by the IHP Executive Director.”

Refer to the Student Handbook for IHP policies regarding academic integrity, academic warning and probation, diversity, disability, harassment protocols, and the academic appeals process.

COURSE CHRONOLOGY AND REQUIRED READINGS
Topics covered in each module will draw on site visits, guest lectures, and other activities, in addition to the assigned readings. The order of the modules may be rearranged to respond to activities or opportunities presented in each Country Program.

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.
NEW YORK CITY, USA
23 January – 3 February
2012

Session 1 – Observational Mapping


DELHI, INDIA
4 February – 10 March 2012

Session 2—Sustainability Fundamentals


Session 3—Transportation


Session 4—Sustainability on the Ground # 1: Urban Constituencies and Participation


Session 5—Environmental Impacts of Urbanization


*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
Session 6—Economic Restructuring and Migration

Session 7—Informal Settlements and Shelter

Session 8—Sustainability on the Ground # 2: Vulnerability and Disaster

Week 12—Semester break!

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA 15 April – 19 May 2012

Session 9—Spatial Segregation and Integration of Informal Settlements (Joint Session with P&D)

Session 10—Sustainability on the Ground # 3: Ecology and Urban Form

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning


Session 11—Sustainability in Practice: Single- and Multi-dimension Approaches


Session 12—Semester synthesis; final workshop and presentation.

THEMATIC READINGS (available on request)
The following readings are recommended for a range of purposes including introduction and in-depth material on the city, the discipline, methods and/or concepts. Readings are intended to augment your observations, experiences, and learning in the cities we visit. They are invaluable resources for clarifying concepts and deepening your understanding of what you are experiencing. This list, particularly readings related to Delhi, Dakar and Buenos Aires, will continue to grow throughout the semester; ask the faculty for suggestions of additional readings.

Planning Theory


Sustainability


*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.
<http://www.unhabitat.org/declarations/ist-dec.htm>

Suburbanization, Urban Sprawl, Segregation

Environmental Justice

Urban Form, Land Use, Development Patterns

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.
This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.


**Transportation**

**Public Space**

**Waste**

**Food and Gardens**

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.*

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

---

### Participatory Planning / Right to the City


### Planners and the Planning Profession


### Contemporary Planning and Urban Design Practice


### New York City

- **Angotti, Tom.** “Is New York’s Sustainability Plan Sustainable?” Paper presented to the joint conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and

---

*This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.*

---

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.


Delhi

- Baviskar, Amita. “Cows, Cars and Rickshaws: Bourgeois Environmentalists and the Battle for Delhi’s Streets.” ADD PG #

Dakar

- Dakar Urban Master Plan 2025.

Buenos Aires


TOOLKIT

