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Cities in the 21st Century
People, Planning, and Politics

Explore how geography, politics, and culture affect whether people can thrive in cities.

Coursework

Urban Politics and Development
DVST 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Understanding the political process and its role in urban development is central to comprehending how cities work and grow. Who exercises power in cities and what are their sources of power? What is the structure of cities and how does this enhance or impede their growth? What is the role of state and local government in formulating development policies in a changing world economy? What challenges are faced by public policymakers and other stakeholders? This course examines a variety of structural elements and processes, including government structures, relationships between city and regional institutions, privatization, community development, economic growth, industrial restructuring, technological change, workforce development, the informal economy, poverty and income distribution.

Urban Planning and Sustainable Environments
URST 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
What are the intentional and natural forces that guide the development of the world’s cities? How has urban planning attempted to guide these forces toward a prosperous and equitable reality? This course explores the networks that sustain dense human habitation. As the pace of urbanization increases around the world, the process of modernization and globalization appears to destroy traditional, environmentally sustainable systems of land and energy use. Are there alternatives that provide contemporary, environmentally conscious approaches for urban habitation? In response to rapid automobile and de-densification of cities around the globe, are planners having any success at choreographing the development of city systems and services in equitable and holistically sustainable ways? The course examines themes such as urbanization patterns, land control, infrastructure, and sustainability to help students understand the role of planning and planners in shaping urban environments.

Culture and Society of World Cities
ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
How do people identify and construct boundaries for various social groupings (race, class, ethnicity, gender, and locality)? What strategies do people use to adapt to living in cities? How do neighborhoods become distinctive? What are their celebrations and festivals? Who participates in each? What are the sources of information on these social categories and symbolic activities? This course examines how these elements combine to form the rich layers of multicultural urban society, how communities are structured and destroyed, and how values relate to urban life. An emphasis is placed on how anthropologists have adjusted their research methods in response to the study of urban life. Specific focus is placed on providing students with the tools necessary to conduct preliminary fieldwork in urban areas.

Contemporary Urban Issues: Problems and Solutions
URST 3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Are today’s headlines a fleeting concern or a clue to understanding broad forces at work—forces that define the lives of the people in the cities and countries the program visits? Throughout the program, a broad spectrum of contemporary topics is presented. In each city, topics of special significance to that city are examined in depth through lectures, field visits, and case studies. In this course, students have an opportunity to pursue individual comparative research on topics of their own choosing. The course is co-taught by all program faculty to emphasize the multidisciplinary analysis of issues and integrate the experience-based learning of the semester.

Program Duration  Fall/Spring 16 weeks
Credits  16
Program Sites
Fall: New Orleans, São Paulo, Cape Town, Hanoi
Spring: New York, Delhi and Ahmedabad, Dakar, Buenos Aires

Homestays
Fall: São Paulo, 3–4 weeks; Cape Town, 3–4 weeks; Hanoi, 3–4 weeks
Spring: Delhi and Ahmedabad, 3–4 weeks; Dakar, 3–4 weeks; Buenos Aires, 3–4 weeks

Other Accommodations  Hotels or hostels
Prerequisites  None, but previous college-level coursework and/or other preparation in urban studies, anthropology, political science, or other related fields is strongly recommended.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/CTA.
Climate Change

The Politics of Food, Water, and Energy

Explore the social impacts of climate change through the political economy of food, water, and energy in some of the world’s most productive and vulnerable landscapes.

Coursework

Political, Economic, and Environmental History: 1492 to the Present
ECON 3010 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course analyzes the development and history of modern capitalism on a global scale. Topics of consideration within this context include state formation, war, imperialism, technology, energy, environmental change, economic crisis, and “long waves of accumulation.” There is a particular focus on post-World War II developments, including the rise of Keynesianism globally; the role of socialist economies; the political economy of the Cold War; Third World development; the global crisis of profitability in the 1970s, the resultant economic restructuring, and the turn toward neoliberalism; the collapse of communism; the acceleration of neoliberalism and its deepening crisis; the rise of developing economies such as China; and the possibility of alternative economic models.

Comparative Issues in Food, Water, and Energy
SDIS 3070 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course looks at agriculture and energy, and the attendant resources upon which those sectors depend. Students visit farms, fishing communities, food processors, and food transportation companies, while examining the history and political economy of food production in each country visited. A similar approach is taken in examining the energy sector; fieldwork complements detailed studies of geography and political economy as students encounter the natural sciences, companies, technologies, and regulatory arrangements that constitute “the energy sector.” The course also examines the technologies of emerging alternatives such as solar, wind, and tidal power.

The Science and Policy of Climate Change
ECOL 3010 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course unpacks the basic science of the climate system by examining the state-of-the-art science collated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and through regular engagement with scientists and researchers. Students learn how to read scientific papers and analyze the policy process at local, national, and international levels. They also consider the tangle of acronyms—such as IPCC, UNFCCC, and CDM—that define international policy discourses on climate change. The course looks at smaller scale, regional initiatives such as California’s state-level efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions and its investments in renewable energy, Morocco’s green plan, and Plan 2020.

Fieldwork Ethics and Comparative Research Methods
ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course enables students to understand and benefit from experience-based learning processes. It provides students with skills related to gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information from a range of sources, maximizing the knowledge provided by local contexts. The course intends to assist students in assessing their own cultural assumptions and in understanding people from different cultures. Students are familiarized with the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. The seminar provides a framework for a cumulative project involving data collection and qualitative research undertaken in each of the countries visited.

Program Duration
Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits: 16
Program Sites
California: San Francisco Bay Area, Central Valley, and the California-Mexico border
Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City, Central Highlands, and Mekong River
Morocco: Based in Rabat with excursions to Casablanca, Tangiers, and the Atlas Mountains
Bolivia: Based in Cochabamba with excursions to La Paz, Lake Titicaca, Potosí, and the salt flats of Salar de Uyuni

Accommodations
Homestays in Morocco and Bolivia. Hotels, guest houses, and/or dormitories in California and Vietnam

Prerequisites
None, although previous coursework in political science, economics, and/or environmental science is recommended.
Health and Community

Globalization, Culture, and Care

Investigate how communities can ensure the health and well-being of all citizens amid mounting challenges created by changing economic, environmental, and social forces.

Coursework

Globalization and Health
IBPH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Nations at all levels of development vary in their commitment and capacity to define healthcare as a human right and provide healthcare to their citizens equitably. Some have created systems to provide basic healthcare yet struggle with other factors that influence health, while others position healthcare as an economic commodity subject to market forces. This course provides a framework for comparing the organization and financing of health systems and health policymaking across the countries visited. It examines the political economy of health, with special attention to the impact of international governance and economic and trade policies.

Students gain skills in critical thinking, policy analysis, and debate, supported by research, observation, and exposure to varied perspectives among in-country experts.

Public Health: From Biology to Policy
IBPH 3505 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
This course begins with an overview of global and national health trends in the context of demographic shifts and development. In each country visited, a significant health condition is addressed: How is disease distributed in the country’s population? What public health interventions are supported by empirical evidence? In light of social, cultural, economic, and political conditions, how can such evidence be applied in the local context? Specific considerations studied range from infectious to “lifestyle” and chronic illnesses, including diarrheal diseases of early childhood, adult mental illness, cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

Community Health Research Methods
IBPH 3510 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
This course seeks to strengthen students’ competence in inquiry-guided learning through field-based case studies. The course begins with an introduction to the complementary and sometimes conflicting philosophical traditions of ethnography, epidemiology, and health services research. It then teaches and gives students the opportunity to apply the chief tools of each tradition (e.g., participant observation, in-depth interviewing, community surveys, mapping, interpreting data analyses, and oral presentation of findings). In each country, students choose from a range of available field case study topics/sites as the primary venue for demonstrating their field research and presentation skills.

Health, Culture, and Community
ANTH 3050 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Medical anthropology serves as the theoretical foundation for this course. It seeks to strengthen students’ ability to understand, interpret, and compare how personal and community identity, health and well-being, illness, and healing are understood within diverse cultural contexts.

The course examines the philosophies and practices characteristic of biomedicine and a wide range of traditional and nontraditional systems of health and healing as well as the reality of medical pluralism in the lives of individuals. In so doing, the course covers themes of health and healing pertinent across the entire span of human life—from birth to death. Throughout, students are encouraged to support their comparative understanding with an exploration of their own assumptions and practices related to identity, health, and healing.

Program Duration
Fall/Spring 16 weeks

Credits
16

Program Sites
Fall: United States, India, Vietnam, South Africa
Spring Option 1: United States, India, Argentina, South Africa
Spring Option 2: United States, Brazil, Vietnam, South Africa

Homestays
2–4 weeks in all locations other than the first country

Other Accommodations
Hostels and hotels

Prerequisites
None, but previous college-level coursework and/or other preparation in public health, anthropology, biology, or other related fields is strongly recommended.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/HCA.
Human Rights
Foundations, Challenges, and Advocacy

Investigate the principles of human rights; examine ways to secure and protect civil, political, social, and economic rights; and assess future challenges across four distinct national contexts.

Coursework

Foundations and Frameworks of Human Rights
HMRT 3000 / 4 credits / 60 hours
The United Nations articulated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Using that historic moment as a point of departure, this course employs the UN framework as a preliminary lens to examine and understand how basic social and economic rights are contested globally. International safeguards for rights embodied in supranational organizations and national legal systems are discussed. Current human rights conditions, threats, and protections are examined in each country studied. The meaning of a human rights discourse in the political economy of development, as well as in defining the role of the security state, is foregrounded at each field site.

Comparative Issues in Human Rights
HMRT 3500 / 4 credits / 60 hours
Through selected readings, focused discussions, and case studies, this course critically considers an array of current human rights challenges. Among them are the conflicts between national sovereignty and human rights, such as international humanitarian interventions; how universal rights are imbricated with the nuances of culture, ethnicity, and religion; and how national governments affirm and protect human rights in written law, yet simultaneously compromise rights in the realm of politics, economics, media, and social well-being. Human rights questions involving labor conditions, migration, environmental crises, freedom of the media, and the accountability of multinational corporations are explored comparatively within and across program sites.

The Role of Civil Society: Grassroots Movements and Nongovernmental Organizations
SDIS 3320 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course focuses on the practical aspects of advocacy and the protection of human rights by nongovernmental organizations and grassroots, popular movements. Through case studies, interviews, and visits to local organizers of advocacy groups, students learn how popular movements are launched and developed, as well as strategies to navigate legal, political, and public arenas. The course contrasts the role, agendas, and effectiveness of grassroots organizations with those of governmental, private sector, and supranational stakeholders. Students meet with local activists and officials who advocate for various human rights agendas to learn about successful and unsuccessful campaigns and to evaluate the use of inquiries, documentation, public outreach, legal action, and other approaches to protecting rights.

Fieldwork Ethics and Comparative Research Methods
ANTH 3500 / 4 credits / 60 hours
This course provides students with the theoretical, conceptual, and practical knowledge for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information from a range of primary sources. It offers insights for assessing students’ own cultural assumptions and for understanding other cultures. Students are familiarized with the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy. The course is the foundation for a cumulative study project involving research in three countries and culminating in a paper and presentation at the end of the semester.

Program Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks
Credits 16
Program Sites United States, Nepal, Jordan, Chile
Accommodations 2–4 week homestays in all locations other than the first country. Other accommodations could include guest houses and/or small hotels.
Prerequisites Coursework in social sciences, such as anthropology, history, economics, sociology, and/or political science; humanities coursework (philosophy, religion, and/or ethics) is also recommended.

For the most up-to-date information on this program, including photos, video, and course syllabi, visit us online at www.sit.edu/HRC.
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