International Planning Concentration

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This concentration within the MUP program is intended to provide a solid professional and academic preparation in international planning. The concentration responds to three global concerns. The first is the increasing prominence of urbanization as a major political, economic and social force in world affairs. As of 2010, for the first time in our species’ history, more than half of the world’s population now lives in cities. This fundamental change in the pattern of global human settlement raises unprecedented challenges for the planning, design and management of cities and their hinterlands. The second motivating concern is the rapid growth of cities in the developing world, where most growth in the planet’s urban population is now taking place. Finally, the concentration reflects the recognition that planners can draw profound lessons from a comparative perspective on urban phenomena, drawing across experiences in different countries and diverse urban environments.

Within the concentration, students can focus broadly on international planning or concentrate on a number of subthemes that speak to pressing problems related to different developmental conditions. The latter topics might include informality, poverty, service scarcities (especially in transportation, housing, water, and health services), social exclusion, and governance, including the potential for participatory planning. Students are encouraged to focus their interests on a single country in a particular region (such as Latin America, South Asia, the Middle East, or Africa, to name just a few). To successfully satisfy the concentration requirements, students must complete 12 units from the list of preapproved courses provided below or from other courses that have been selected by the student and approved by the concentration advisor. Students intending to undertake the concentration in international planning should begin to map out courses early in their program to be sure that they are able to take advantage of courses offered in only one term or in alternate years.

As Harvard and other local universities offer a wide variety of courses relevant to international planning, the list below is not exhaustive. If students would like to include alternative courses to satisfy the 12 unit concentration requirement, they should speak early on with Michael Hooper or Diane Davis to ensure that the courses are suitable. Participation in some of the courses listed below may require permission from their instructors, and it is the student’s responsibility to contact such instructors to ascertain whether admission is possible. For course offerings in other schools at Harvard or at other universities, it is recommended that students approach the instructor early to ensure it is possible to take the course. Students are advised to review the course pages of the respective schools and departments to be sure that no changes to listings have taken place.

Please note that course offerings often change, and new courses may be offered while these recommended courses may not be offered each year. This memo is subject to change depending on the availability of courses. Other courses may be approved with the written permission of the Concentration Advisor(s).
The following two courses are recommended to those interested in the concentration. They are introductory level courses that give a good overview of the topics and subject matter covered in more depth by other courses in the concentration:

1. GSD 5347: Urbanization and International Development
2. GSD 5502: Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World

Approved courses include:

**Fall**

**At the Graduate School of Design:**
- GSD 3348: The Idea of Environment
- GSD 5302: Transportation Policy and Planning*
- GSD 5375: Contemporary Developing Countries
- GSD 5377: Metropolitics: Comparative Metropolitan Governance in 21st Century Global Cities
- GSD 5466: The Spatial Politics of Land: A Comparative Perspective
- GSD 9127: Real Estate and City Making in China

*Only if not taken to satisfy a methods or other requirement

**At HKS (Kennedy School of Government):**
- HKS DEV 130: Why are So Many Countries Poor, Volatile and Unequal?
- HKS DEV 209: Management, Finance, and Regulation of Public Infrastructure in Developing Countries
- HKS DEV 338: Contemporary Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Solutions to Intractable Problems
- HKS DPI 401: Institutions and Development
- HKS IGA 103: Global Governance
- HKS MLD 102: Getting Things Done: Management in a Development Context
- HKS DEV 375: The Informal Economy: Is Formalization the Answer?
- HKS DPI 407: Getting and Keeping Democracy

**At HSPH (School of Public Health):**
- HSPH GHP 244: Health Sector Reform: A Worldwide Perspective
- HSPH GHP 272: Foundations of Global Health and Population
- HSPH GHP 288: Issues in Health and Human Rights

**At FAS (Faculty of Arts and Sciences):**
- FAS ECON 2326: Economic Development: Theory and Evidence
- FAS GOV 2131: Comparative Politics of Latin America
- FAS GOV 2148: Civil Society, West and East
At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.025J: D-Lab: Development Smith
MIT 11.463J: Structuring Low Income Housing Projects in Developing Countries Goethert
MIT 11.466J: Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development Ashford
MIT 11.474J: Disseminating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Innovations for the Common Good Murcott
MIT 11.701: Introduction to International Development Rajagopal

Spring
At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 3379: Emergent Urbanizations: Challenges for Theory, Method, and Research Brenner, Balakrishnan
GSD 4344: Modern Architecture and Urbanism in China Rowe
GSD 5211: Cities by Design II Gray
GSD 5337: Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities von Hoffman
GSD 5432: International Humanitarian Response (at HSPH, see below) Kayden

At HBS (Harvard Business School)
HBS MBA 1487: Sustainable Cities and Resilient Infrastructure Macomber

At HKS (Kennedy School of Government):
HKS DEV 308: Social Institutions and Economic Development Woolcock
HKS DPI 450: The Political Economy of Transition in China Saich
HKS DPI 460: Latin American Politics and Policymaking Garay
HKS IGA 422: Global Food Politics and Policy Paarlberg

At HSPH (School of Public Health):
HSPH GHP 214: Health, Human Rights and the International System Marks
HSPH GHP 269: The Political Economy of Global Health Bump
HSPH GHP 515: International Humanitarian Response Kayden

At FAS (Faculty of Arts and Sciences):
FAS GOV 1207: Comparative Politics of the Middle East Cammett

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.005: Introduction to International Development del Campo
MIT 11.355: International Housing Economics and Finance Saiz
MIT 11.485: Southern Urbanisms Carolini
MIT 11.487: Budgeting and Finance for the Public Sector Carolini
Courses Not Currently Offered at GSD:
GSD 4329: Urbanization in the East Asian Region
   Rowe
GSD 5347: International Urbanization and Development
   Balakrishnan
GSD 5365: Towns and Settlements in Metropolitan Regions
   Rowe
GSD 5366: Global Perspectives on Shelter Insecurity and Displacement
   Hooper
GSD 5502: Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World*
GSD 9146: Emergent Urbanism: Design Visions for the City of Hermosillo,
   Davis, Vera
GSD 9147: Beyond Reconstruction: Mexico and the 2017 Earthquakes
   Davis, Castillo

*Only if not taken to satisfy a methods or other requirement

Courses Not Currently Offered at FAS:
FAS EASTD 121: Global Cities in East Asia
   Dillon

Courses Not Currently Offered at HKS:
   Summers
HKS IGA 457M: International Climate Change Policy
   Stowe
HKS DPI 454: The Asia-Pacific in Transition
   Baum

Courses Not Currently Offered at MIT:
MIT 11.444J: The New Global Practitioner
   Goethert
MIT 11.479J: Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Developing Countries
   Murcott
MIT 11.526J: Comparative Land Use and Transportation Planning
   Zegras