Department of Architecture and Design

Graduate Programs–MUPP and MUD

Chairperson: Musfy, Leila
Graduate Coordinator: Harb, Mona
Architecture Coordinator: Arbid, George
Professors: Al-Harithy, Howayda; Musfy, Leila
Associate Professors: Saliba, Robert; Harb, Mona; Maasri, Zeina
Assistant Professors: Arbid, George; Drennan, Daniel; Fawaz, Mona; Ghaibeh, Lina; Nader, Karim; Sadek, Walid; Shorto, Sylvia
Visiting Associate Professor: Daher, Rami
Senior Lecturers: Bacho, Jinane; Haddad, Walid; Kosermelli, Simone; Nader, Marc; Serof, Gregoire
Lecturers: Alamuddine, Hana; Arida, Sara Jane; Assi, Naji; Bakhos, Walid; Boyadjian, Rafi; El-Hage Boutros, Pierre; Feschfesch, Antoine; Haddad, Rana; Hamdan, Fadi; Jabr, Abdulhalim; Jamal, Sany; Jubaily-Samara, Rana; Kaloustian, Paul; Kanaan, Joy; Makdessi, Mayda; Mallat, Bernard; Najm, Wagih; Nasrallah, Maha; Yeretzian, Aram
Instructors: Aramouny, Carla; Baki, Fadi; Gharbieh, Ahmad; Kahwagi, Bassam; Khairallah, Dima; Khoury, Abir; Hachem, Pascal; Hafeda, Mohamad; Imam, Hatem; Youssef, Shawki; Traboulsi, Jana; Zoghby, Pascal
Assistant Instructors: Captan, Lara; Hilal, Nancy

Mission Statements of Graduate Programs

Master of Urban Design

To prepare highly qualified well-rounded professionals who are able to deal with issues of design and urban environment in Lebanon and the region. The program is designed to provide a broad professional education in Urban Design with emphasis on the mastery of the tools necessary for effective practice and development of the skills needed for policy analysis and institutional intervention. The program
welcomes university graduates and practitioners and prepares them to occupy leading professional roles through a multidisciplinary education. The Master of Urban Design focuses on studio-based professional education that deals with design considerations related to urban form.

**Master of Urban Planning and Policy**

To prepare highly qualified well-rounded professionals who are able to deal with issues of planning of the urban environment in Lebanon and the region. The program is designed to provide a broad professional education in Urban Planning. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of the tools necessary for effective practice and development of the skills needed for policy analysis and institutional intervention. The program welcomes university graduates and practitioners and prepares them to occupy leading professional roles through a multidisciplinary education. The Master of Urban Planning seeks to provide students with the skills and the specialized knowledge needed to fill a spectrum of planning roles.

**General Information**

The Department of Architecture and Design offers two graduate degrees: Master of Urban Planning and Policy (MUPP) and Master of Urban Design (MUD).

The MUPP and MUD programs offer a first graduate degree to students interested in acquiring the critical skills necessary to analyze urban contexts and to formulate urban interventions in the form of projects and/or policies. The two graduate programs emphasize research skills as primary tools for teaching and learning. They also seek to create a multidisciplinary debate among various approaches to understanding and practicing urban planning and urban design, by enrolling students with different social science and design-based undergraduate degrees. A multidisciplinary environment is further enhanced by guest lecturers and yearly seminars that reflect on the different professions of, and practices in, the built environment, and by linkages with other schools of social science and design in and outside the University. This research-based and multidisciplinary approach to urban planning and urban design makes the MUPP and MUD programs unique in Lebanon and the region where most other planning programs are structured as applied professional degrees.

**Program Structure**

The two graduate programs each extend over two years of full-time enrollment. The MUPP track requires students to take a total of 30 credits, nine of them in a sub-discipline of specialization where planning and policy-making skills are applied. The MUD track requires students to take a total of 33 credits, 12 of them in applied design studios. The two tracks share a common core of 21 credits consisting of three core courses (Research Methods; Planning Theory and Policy; and Urbanism), one planning/design workshop, and a final thesis. The thesis requires research, and the generation of innovative ways of thinking and understanding the future context of practice. In addition, all students enrolled in the MUPP/MUD programs are required to take the zero-credit seminar titled City Debates at least twice during their university enrollment. One of the core courses, Urbanism, may be waived, depending on the student’s background and with the consent of the academic adviser.

### Common Core MUPP/MUD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 660</td>
<td>City Debates Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 630</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 631</td>
<td>Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 632</td>
<td>Urbanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL/URDS 661</td>
<td>Planning and Design Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL/URDS 681</td>
<td>Urban Planning/Urban Design Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### MUPP Courses

MUPP students are required to take three courses from one area of concentration (9 credits), in a field of applied social science or engineering (such as sociology, economics, public administration, civil or environmental engineering) leading toward concentration areas such as urban policy, community development, transportation, labor, housing, or environmental sustainability. Other options may be agreed upon with the MUPP/MUD academic adviser.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Concentration</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 9</strong></td>
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### MUD Courses

MUD students are required to take one design studio and two approved electives (12 credits).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Studio</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URDS 602</td>
<td>Design Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 12</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### Program Agenda

The typical course load for the Urban Planning and Policy, and Urban Design tracks is normally distributed over two years as shown below. Course distribution is subject to the approval of the academic adviser.

### Urban Planning and Policy Track

#### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URPL 630</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URPL 631</td>
<td>Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Concentration Area Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Admission Qualifications

Applicants who meet all of the AUB and FEA regulations governing admission to graduate study, including acceptable EEE or TOEFL scores, and who hold the equivalent of an undergraduate degree in architecture, landscape architecture, environmental design, urban or regional planning, engineering, economics, public administration, sociology or other social science degree, may be admitted to the Master of Urban Planning and Policy program as regular graduate students.

Applicants who meet all of the AUB and FEA requirements governing admission to graduate study, including acceptable EEE or TOEFL scores, and who hold the equivalent of a professional Bachelor of Architecture degree may be admitted to the Master of Urban Design program as graduate students.

For admission purposes, a student’s cumulative undergraduate average, regardless of undergraduate major, is computed from all courses taken during the last two years of undergraduate study. If the credit total for all courses taken during the last two years is fewer than 60 credits, courses from previous semesters are considered until the number is at least 60.

Course Descriptions

Mandatory Core Courses

Each of the following courses is required for MUPP/MUD students. Non-majors must secure the approval of the program adviser and the instructor concerned to enroll in any of the courses listed below.

URPL 630 Research Methods 3 cr.
URPL 631 Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy 3 cr.
One Approved Elective 3 cr.
Total 9 cr.

URDS 601 Planning and Design Workshop 6 cr.
URPL 632 Urbanism 3 cr.
URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.
Total 9 cr.

URPL 680 Thesis Preparation 0 cr.
Two Concentration Area Electives 6 cr.
Total 6 cr.

URPL 681 Urban Planning Thesis 6 cr.
URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.
Total 6 cr.

URDS 602 Design Studio 6 cr.
One Approved Elective 3 cr.
Total 9 cr.

URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.
URDS 603 Urban Design Thesis 6 cr.
Total 6 cr.

Urban Design Track

First Year

Fall Semester

URPL 630 Research Methods 3 cr.
URPL 631 Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy 3 cr.
One Approved Elective 3 cr.
Total 9 cr.

Spring Semester

URDS 601 Planning and Design Workshop 6 cr.
URPL 632 Urbanism 3 cr.
URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.
Total 9 cr.

Second Year

Fall Semester

URDS 602 Design Studio 6 cr.
One Approved Elective 3 cr.
Total 9 cr.

Spring Semester

URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.
URDS 603 Urban Design Thesis 6 cr.
Total 6 cr.
URPL 631 Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy 3 cr.
This course is designed to introduce students to current debates and practices in the field of urban planning. It seeks to explain how urban planning has evolved over the past decades. Students read and discuss relevant debates and issues of boundaries, spaces, and places by studying sacred spaces, gender segregation, and social distinctions. The course closes with debates on city culture(s) and anthropology. The course also investigates notions of private and public by debating questions of behavior in public, of morality, and geographical limits. It also looks at urban public space, more specifically at the others who occupy it, at movement and practices of everyday life, and at non-places. Finally, we study issues of boundaries, spaces, and places by studying sacred spaces, gender segregation, and social distinctions. The course closes with debates on city culture(s) and anthropology.

ERPL 634 The Contested Urban Heritage of Cities in the Arab World 3 cr.
The seminar focuses on urban heritage and the politics of its identification, conservation, and representation. The principal theoretical position recognizes heritage as an intrinsically contested notion. Issues such as collective memory, invented traditions, constructed identities, heritage tourism, cultural consumption and sacredscapes are debated and examined through case studies that include Jerusalem, Beirut, Cairo, Riyadh, and Dubai.

URPL 635 Politics of Place and Practices of Heritage and Tourism in the Middle East 3 cr.
The course is concerned with concepts of cultural change and therefore attempts to understand moments of rarity and transformation and the shift from modernity to the current postmodern condition and neo-liberal agendas working to re-structure cities and built environment around us through a complex dialogue between the local and the global. The course aims to unravel and understand the various networks, communication structures, and discourses that operate between and within various types of publics and actors involved in the definition, production, and consumption of heritage and their links to issues of place politics, tourism, and community development.

URPL 636 Urban Economics 3 cr.
This course focuses on using the principles of economic analysis to explain why cities exist, where they develop, how they grow, how different activities are arranged within cities, and the spatial aspects of urban problems such as traffic congestion, poverty, and substandard housing. The main economic concepts that are used include the consumer choice model, monopolistic competition, the input choice model, short-run and long-run curves, and the interaction between markets.

URPL 637 The Spatiality of Urban Social Exclusion 3 cr.
This course equips students with an understanding of the concept and phenomenon of social exclusion and its spatial manifestations. It aims to create an understanding of how and why cities are increasingly affected by this phenomenon and how social exclusion is linked with spatial exclusion. The course also aims to shed light on how urban regeneration and housing initiatives can affect social exclusion and the consequences that it has on citizenship.

URPL 638 Development Aid in the MENA: Impacts on Cities and Spatial Planning 3 cr.
This course combines political science and urban studies to investigate the impacts of development aid policies and programs on cities and spatial planning. Students learn about development aid rationale and about different donors' paradigms vis-à-vis cities in the MENA. Selected policy sectors are examined to gauge the effects of development aid on the built environment, highlighting encountered challenges. Possible reforms to improve the effectiveness of development aid are also discussed.
URPL 639  Spaces of Faith and Fun: Islamic Leisure and Tourism in the Middle-East  3cr.
The course examines spaces of leisure and tourism that are produced by institutions and entrepreneurs directly or indirectly related to the Islamic cultural realm, in different countries of the Middle-East where “faith and fun” intersect spatially. Students learn to analyze what is “new age” Islamism and what are its impacts are on the built environment and on visual culture. The themes explored include religiosity, identity and globalization, consumerism, popular culture, urban signs and imagery, socio-spatial practices, political tourism, and modernity.

URPL 662  Introduction to Policy Analysis  3 cr.
The course introduces students to the analysis of public policies taken in their broad sense, as programs, regulations, and decisions; elaborated by a diversity of stakeholders belonging to formal and informal institutions. The seminar teaches students tools for analyzing development and planning policies, and for proposing alternative policy interventions. The course uses the Lebanese scene as its research field, but also investigates other policy case studies.

URPL 663  Urban Land Use Planning  3 cr.
The course provides policy context for understanding land use issues. It examines various theoretical approaches to urban spatial structure, bringing market oriented influences and public oriented interests into balance through the land use plan and guidance system. It also discusses how this structure evolves and changes. The course focuses on the frameworks within which this balance could be achieved.

URDS 664  Ecological Landscape Design and Planning  3cr.
The course which is an introduction to the theory and methodology of ecological landscape design and planning, aims at introduce the holistic approach of landscape ecology and its application to the sustainable management of natural and cultural landscapes/ecosystems. The course syllabus is planned to prioritize Mediterranean ecosystems and landscapes and equally to promote interdisciplinary collaboration in research and project management.

URPL 664  Transportation Planning and Policy  3 cr.
The course focuses on transportation policy and planning for transportation facilities and services as well as the interaction between transportation and built, natural, and social environments. The course’s intent is to provide students with the necessary knowledge for analyzing transportation problems in the field, as well as the policy framework for examining the broader social, economic, and environmental implications of alternative transportation planning decisions. The course discusses policy making and policy instruments, considers alternative institutional arrangements for policy development and implementation, and evaluates the efficacy of different policy interventions. The interaction between technical analysis and policy making is also addressed.