

Department of Architecture and Design

Graduate Programs—MUPP and MUD

Chairperson:	Musfy, Leila
Graduate Coordinator:	Saliba, Robert
Architecture Coordinator:	Arbid, George
Professors:	Al-Harithy, Howayda; Musfy, Leila
Associate Professors:	Harb, Mona; Maasri, Zeina; Saliba, Robert
Assistant Professors:	Arbid, George; Drennan, Daniel; Fawaz, Mona; Ghaibeh, Lina; Nader, Karim; Sadek, Walid; Shorto, Sylvia
Visiting Assistant Professors:	Condon, Joel; Holland, Brian; Najjar, Karim
Senior Lecturers:	Bacho, Jinane; Haddad, Walid; Kosermelli, Simone; Nader, Marc; Serof, Gregoire
Lecturers:	Assi, Naji; Bakhos, Walid; Boyadjian, Rafi; EL-Hage Boutros, Pierre; Feschfesch, Antoine; Haddad, Rana; Hamdan, Fadi; Jabr, Abdulhalim; Jamal, Sany; Jubaily-Samara, Rana; Kanaan, Joy; Makdessi, Mayda; Mallat, Bernard; Najm, Wagih; Nasrallah, Maha; Taha, Mohamad; Traboulsi, Jana; Yeretizian, Aram; Younes, Hala
Instructors:	Abboud, Rania; Akkad, Fakhry; Aramouny, Carla; Baki, Fadi; Bekdache, Nadine; Gharbieh, Ahmad; Hachem, Pascal; Imam, Hatem; Kahwagi, Bassam; Khoury, Abir; Moumtaz, Nada; Sinno, Tarik; Youssef, Shawki

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

URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
URPL	630	Research Methods	3
URPL	631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
URPL	632	Urbanism	3
URPL/ URDS	661 601	Planning and Design Workshop	6
URDS/ URPL	681 603	Urban Planning/Urban Design Thesis	6
			Total 21

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.

Three courses in area of concentration	9
Total 9	

MUD Courses

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

URDS	602	Urban and Landscape Design Studio	6
Two approved electives			6
			Total 12

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

Fall Semester			Credits
URPL	630	Research Methods	3
URPL	631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
		One Concentration Area Elective	3
			Total 9

Spring Semester			Credits
URPL	632	Urbanism	3
URPL/URDS	661/601	Planning and Design Workshop	6
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
			Total 9

Second Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URPL 680		Thesis Preparation	0
		Two Concentration Area Electives	6
			Total 6

Spring Semester			Credits
URPL	681	Urban Planning Thesis	6
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
			Total 6

Urban Design Track

First Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URPL	630	Research Methods	3
URPL	631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
		One Approved Elective	3
			Total 9

Spring Semester			Credits
URDS	601	Planning and Design Workshop	6
URPL	632	Urbanism	3
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
			Total 9

Second Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URDS	602	Urban and landscape Design Studio	6
		One Approved Elective	3
			Total 9

Spring Semester			Credits
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
URDS	603	Urban Design Thesis	6
			Total 6

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.

URDS 601 Planning and Design Workshop 6 cr.
 The course investigates the multiplicity of readings of a place, how they contribute to the production of space, and how they impact approaches to urban planning and design. It seeks to confront legal and institutional lenses with anthropological investigations of how space is perceived and experienced by its producers and/or users and revealed through classic investigations of social analysis. Based on a selected case study, the course aims at generating a series of mappings through which actual planning and design interventions are developed.

URDS 602 Urban and Landscape Design Studio 6 cr.

In this urban design studio, a case study is selected for which a rationale for an intervention has to be devised and a design intervention elaborated.

URDS 603 Design Thesis 6 cr.

Supervised research and design is conducted individually by the student leading to a thesis proposal approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and culminating in a final thesis in urban design.

URPL 630 Research Methods 3 cr.

This course examines the process and practice of qualitative research, as applied to the field of urban planning and urban design, stressing the logic of scientific explanations. The elements of research design are investigated by focusing on the study of several qualitative and quantitative methods. Students learn how to design their research methodology in accordance with their research problem.

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 planning in lower income countries, looking at how, where, and by whom planning is practiced; and how planning goals have evolved over the past decades. Students read and discuss relevant debates in the field of planning. Special emphasis is placed on encouraging students to articulate their own positions and to discuss planning practices in the context of the Middle East.

URPL 632 Urbanism 3 cr.

This course is designed as an introduction for students in urban design and urban planning to the field of urban studies, with a major emphasis on how this field has been conceptualized since the early 1970s. It seeks to expose students to some of the ways in which social scientists have conceptualized and researched urban spaces, such as the social production of space, the city as growth machine, the city as body politics, and others.

URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.

The yearly seminar titled City Debates, addresses various urban issues. In particular, it tackles ongoing planning and design concerns from a multidisciplinary perspective related to Lebanon's post-war development. The seminar is offered annually during the spring semester. Topics have included: A Critical Assessment of the Lebanese National Master Plan; La Meen Beirut? (Whose Beirut?); and Urban Heritage and the Politics of the Present Perspectives from the Middle East.

URPL 661 Planning and Design Workshop 6 cr.

See description of URDS 601.

URPL 681 Planning Thesis 6 cr.

Supervised research conducted individually by the student leading to a thesis proposal approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and culminating in a final thesis in urban planning and policy.

Elective Courses

MUPP-MUD elective courses are open to graduates and senior undergraduates from all AUB departments.

URPL 620 Building the Colonies: Colonialism, Imperialism, and Urban Change 3 cr.

Colonialism and imperialism can be interpreted as part of larger ideological and sociopolitical systems that continue to inform changing cultural values today. This seminar uses sites of colonial urbanism to investigate ways by which spatial organization is used to produce historical knowledge. We consider alterations made to pre-existing cities, as well as new city plans, both built and projected, in the Americas, in Asia, and around the Mediterranean Rim.

URPL 621 Urban Form and its Formation 3 cr.

The course examines the various elements that make up urban patterns, giving insight into the city-building processes that generate these patterns. Students are exposed to urban morphology and planning history, and urban historical geography. The goal is to build an ability to “read” and “write” the city through a range of disparate approaches. The course concludes by considering the ways in which knowledge about urban forms can contribute to the practice of planners and designers as molders and managers of changing urban landscapes.

URDS 632 From Urban Design to Landscape Urbanism 3 cr..

This course explores the changing conception of city space examining the shifts in environmental design theory and practice. The class will cover the foundation of urban design as a traditional discipline while opening up to emerging design ideologies and tactics in line with contemporary urban mutations. The course will appeal to students in architecture, landscape architecture and urbanism who are interested in crossing the boundaries between disciplines and exploring new potentialities in design thinking.

URDS 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 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** **3 cr.**

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.

URDS 664 **Ecological Landscape Design and Planning** **3 cr.**

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.

URDS 665 **Law and the Built Environment** **3 cr.**

The course aims at exploring the relations between the rules that govern the production of the built environment, building practices, and the shape of the city. In this context, rules include the complex set of state legislated regulations (e.g. building law, zoning regulations, urban planning law) as well as socially sanctioned norms (e.g. privacy regulations). Investigated building practices will mostly be those of the professional architectural practice and should inform the future role of the students as designers and/or urban planners. The course is based on a critical approach to the understanding of law, how it is legislated, how it is actualized, how it intersects with other norms in the context where it is implemented, and how it affects building practices. Issues are explored at two scales: urban clusters and individual buildings.

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.