

URBAN STUDIES

Through interdisciplinary study and experiential learning, the Urban Studies program fosters understanding of the causes and consequences of the urban condition, the origins and implications of urban issues, and the presence and influence of the city in the world. The program offers courses that:

1. introduce cities and urban life;
2. present approaches to and methods of urban studies;
3. emphasize interdisciplinarity;
4. address key issues of urban experience; and
5. examine the relationship between the Christian faith and contemporary urban challenges.

Wheaton in Chicago, a semester-long, residential, experiential program, available to all Wheaton College students, is required of all Urban Studies majors and minors. During the Wheaton in Chicago program, students complete internships, gaining practical work experience with organizations in Chicago, and enroll in courses earning major and Christ at the Core credit. The Wheaton in Chicago program also emphasizes leadership, mentoring, and vocational discernment.

The program provides a foundation for graduate study in social science and professional fields while preparing students for possible employment in fields such as advocacy, community and economic development, cultural affairs, ministry, public health, research, social enterprise, social work, and policy, planning and design, among others.

The Urban Studies major and minor, as well as Wheaton in Chicago, are programs of the Wheaton College Center for Urban Engagement (CUE). CUE exists to promote just, sustainable, and flourishing urban communities through the academic study of cities and transformational experiences of urban life.

Faculty

Interim Chair, Professor of Anthropology Brian Howell

Interim CUE Co-Directors Gregory Lee and Sean Young

Associate Professor Theology and Urban Studies Gregory Lee

Faculty Director of Wheaton in Chicago and Associate Lecturer in Urban Studies Sean Young

Visiting Assistant Professor Q. Adam Marshall

Programs

- Urban Studies Major (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/urban-studies/urban-studies-major/>)
- Urban Studies Minor (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/urban-studies/urban-studies-minor/>)
- Aequitas Fellowship Program in Urban Leadership (<https://catalog.wheaton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/urban-studies/aequitas-ul/>)

Courses

Urban Studies Courses

URBN 114. Social Life of Cities. (4 Credits)

This course introduces students to the study of cities and their associated social phenomena, while crafting a biblically informed perspective upon various urban issues. Students engage a broad range of research upon cities in a variety of domestic and international contexts through class readings, lectures and multimedia presentations. Key concepts which have been used to characterize the distinctiveness of urban life are introduced and discussed, with attention to the comparative experiences of contemporary cities.

Tags: GP, SI

URBN 233. Chicago. (4 Credits)

This course explores the social dynamics of Chicago, a city defined by its "elegant façade and deeply shadowed backstage," to quote one scholar. Students will learn about Chicago's history, as well as several contemporary issues and controversies, by focusing on economic history, race, race relations, ethnicity, and immigration, and environmental justice.

Tags: DUS, SI

URBN 296. Urban Studies Practicum. (2 or 4 Credits)

Supervised field placements and mentorship in urban contexts. Students must have sophomore standing to be eligible. Provides opportunities for vocational discernment and requires students to think through the ways in which their field experience will inform the coursework they will complete as juniors and seniors.

URBN 321. Urban Issues and Active Faith. (2 Credits)

An interdisciplinary course designed to help students integrate their internship, classroom, and daily life experiences while living in the city under the Wheaton in Chicago program. Course is offered occasionally.

URBN 352. Topics in Urban Studies. (2 Credits)

Selected topics, designed to give added breadth and depth to the understanding of cities and Urban Studies. May include such subjects as "The Chicago School" of Urban Studies, Urban Planning & Contemporary Environments, and The City in Film. Occasional.

URBN 354. Topics in Urban Studies. (4 Credits)

Selected topics, designed to give added breadth and depth to the understanding of cities and Urban Studies. May include such subjects as "The Chicago School" of Urban Studies, Urban Planning & Sustainable Environments, and The City in Film. Occasional.

URBN 362. Global Cities: Cities and the World. (4 Credits)

This course examines the effects of globalization on major urban centers in the world system, comparing and contrasting cities in North American, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Students will study the economic, political, and social impact, as well as responses of government and civil society. Course is offered occasionally.

URBN 371. Race, Class, and Justice. (4 Credits)

A study of racial injustice in the United States, focusing on the urban context. This course draws from history, sociology, theology, and other disciplines to analyze the concept of race and to develop a Christian vision for racial justice and reconciliation. This course is designed for Wheaton in Chicago.

URBN 373. The City in Popular Culture. (2 Credits)

Explores common representations of the city as they emerge within the media of popular culture. These characterizations of the city are critically considered within frameworks of anthropological analysis and therefore highlight issues of meaning, practice, history and human agency. Course is offered occasionally.

URBN 381. Community Economic Development & Enterprise. (4 Credits)

This experiential course teaches concepts and frameworks of community economic development with special focus on the role of private enterprise and its relationship to other key actors, such as non-profit institutions and government agencies. Students will study ways in which community development practices, entrepreneurship, and business development can be leveraged to promote economic opportunity in urban neighborhoods. The course includes case studies, fields, and guest lectures, and students will also take advantage of proximity to various institutions of community economic development and enterprise, including the University of Chicago's Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

URBN 383. Cities in the Global South. (2 Credits)

Cities in the global south today face a variety of challenges, requiring careful negotiation through policy and everyday practice. This course introduces students to the particular issues which colonial histories and peripheral participation in global markets have produced in some key cities of the global south. Strategies and innovations for future development are presented as possibilities for local agency and transformation. Course is offered occasionally.

URBN 385. Urban Politics. (2 Credits)

See PSCI 385.

URBN 391. Community-Based Research in Urban Public Health. (4 Credits)

Theory and practice of public health program planning and evaluation in partnership with community public health organizations in urban Chicago. Students will integrate principles of community building and organizing to address community-identified health issues in the context of social change. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of faith-based cultural humility for the recognition and empowerment of existing healthy community assets for the improvement of urban health and quality of life. Quantitative and qualitative research methods will be utilized and integrated throughout all phases of health planning and program evaluation. \$50 course fee. Prerequisite: AHS 381. Course is offered occasionally.

URBN 393. Placemaking in Urban Contexts. (2 Credits)

Explores the processes by which particular configurations of history, identity and landscape are transformed into identifiable and meaningful places in the construction and development of cities. Case studies will be drawn from multiple cities around the world, including Scotland, China, and Africa and will examine the use of local and global narratives, images, and logics, highlighting the socially contested and constructed nature of this process. Course is offered occasionally.

URBN 399. Pre-field Preparation. (0 Credits)

Prepares students for undertaking a field experience in Chicago with the Wheaton In Chicago program. Through correspondence with a faculty member in Urban Studies, students are introduced to relevant practical issues and challenges, particularly related to cross-cultural competencies, as well as many resources which will be available to them through the duration of their experiential education program. This course equips students to maximize the impact of their urban field experience, develop practical intercultural skills, and positively and holistically contribute to life in a community.

URBN 494. Advanced Urban Studies Seminar. (2 Credits)

This capstone course requires integrative, interdisciplinary reflection upon emerging urban forms, urban field experiences, and vocation. Undergraduate students must have completed an urban field experience (e.g., Wheaton in Chicago) or internship prior to enrolling in the course, unless they secure the consent of the Urban Studies Program Director.
General Education: SHAR

URBN 495. Independent Study. (2 to 4 Credits)

Directed reading and research during the student's urban field experience.

URBN 496. Internship. (2 to 8 Credits)

Supervised field experience in an urban setting, usually Chicago. The internship is designed to meet the particular interests of the student, as well as the needs of the host organization and neighborhood. Graded pass/fail.

Aequitas Fellowship Program in Urban Leadership Courses

AQTS 111. Introduction to Urban Leadership. (2 Credits)

This course introduces students to the particularities and possibilities of urban life, situating cities in the earliest writing on human social and political ideals. While the history of human civilization has largely been one of increasing urbanization, the relatively recent intensification of such movement brings historically urban questions to the forefront of ethical and economic thought. In this course students situate contemporary concerns and theorizing of cities within the integrated history of building and knowing cities and imagining a just and good society. What role do locally specific configurations of social, political and economic institutions play in our pursuits of a just social order? What is a good city? (Open to Aequitas Fellowship Program in Urban Leadership students only)

AQTS 112. Aequitas Urban Leadership Summer Experience Requirement. (0 Credits)

This course consists in a 0-credit record-keeping course to mark the completion of Aequitas Urban Leadership Fellows' summer experience. Students fulfill this requirement by completing one of the summer experience programs in an urban location organized by Ministry Trips in the Office of Missions and Evangelism, in a domestic or international site. Fellows participate in the training and service work for the summer experience program prior to departure, along with the other students participating in this experience. This experience challenges students to identify and navigate challenges and opportunities in an urban context, which will enable them to perceive continuities and contrasts with their Wheaton in Chicago experience, as well as cities studied in their academic coursework. This course will be graded P/F.

AQTS 211. Aequitas Urban Leadership Reading Group. (1 Credit)

The second year of Aequitas Urban Leadership, students take a two-semester course sequence for 2 credits total (1 credit per semester). The Aequitas Urban Leadership theme coordinator facilitates the reading group through engagement with readings from invited lecturers on topics relating to the social, political and economic life of cities. The reading group also provides resources on leadership development, which the theme coordinator and students work through together. Discussion group participants are additionally invited to participate in round table discussions with the invited lecturers, prior to the public lecture.

AQTS 212. Aequitas Urban Leadership Reading Group Semester 2. (1 Credit)

The second year of Aequitas Urban Leadership, students take a two-semester course sequence for 2 credits total (1 credit per semester). The Aequitas Urban Leadership theme coordinator facilitates the reading group through engagement with readings from invited lecturers on topics relating to the social, political and economic life of cities. The reading group also provides resources on leadership development, which the theme coordinator and students work through together. Discussion group participants are additionally invited to participate in round table discussions with the invited lecturers, prior to the public lecture.

AQTS 311. Community-Based Research. (2 or 4 Credits)

This course is only open to students in the Aequitas Fellowship Program in Urban Leadership. Students can enroll for 2 or 4 credits. In this course, students learn the principles and methods of community-based research by conducting small-scale projects in collaboration with local community organizations during their Wheaton in Chicago semester. Through these activities, students will learn about the broader context of community-based organizations, their programming aimed at sustaining flourishing urban communities, and how research can be leveraged to support it. Prerequisite: Participation in the Aequitas Fellowship Program in Urban Leadership.

AQTS 496. Aequitas Urban Leadership Internship. (4 to 8 Credits)

The internship plays an integral role in shaping a student's experience during Wheaton in Chicago, as well as contributing to the collective experience of the entire cohort. All students will be expected to fulfill several common requirements that support a professional and reflexive learning community amongst the cohort. Beyond those common requirements, students registered for AQTS 496 will be expected to complete several additional academic requirements that enhance and deepen the learning experience during their Wheaton in Chicago internship. This course is graded Pass/Fail.

AQTS 411. Aequitas Urban Leadership Final Project Requirement. (0 Credits)

This course consists in a 0-credit, pass/fail record-keeping course to mark the completion of Aequitas Urban Leadership Fellows' final project requirement. Students will apply their learning in the Aequitas Urban Leadership program to deepen their experience in specific areas of interest, which may align with their areas of major study, extracurricular activities, and/or identified vocational trajectories through projects that may include but are not limited to honors theses, peer-reviewed articles, community art projects, HNGR research projects, and competitive fellowship applications. In the spring semester, students register for this course to mark the completion and presentation of the results of these projects, and they will work with the Aequitas Urban Leadership theme coordinator to schedule the presentation events. These final projects enable the students to tie their Aequitas learning to their distinctive personal and vocational interests, and the public presentations facilitate the sharing of the results of their learning with the campus community in an act of public engagement. This course will be graded P/F. Prerequisite: Wheaton in Chicago.