

Department of Architecture and Design

Graduate Programs—MUPP and MUD

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Associate Professors:	Arbid, George; Harb, Mona; Maasri, Zeina; Sadek, Walid; Saliba, Robert
Assistant Professors:	Drennan, Daniel; Fawaz, Mona; Ghaibeh, Lina; Levesque, Carole; Najjar, Karim; Shorto, Sylvia
Visiting Assistant Professor:	Thomas, James Matthew
Senior Lecturers:	Bacho, Jinane; Haddad, Walid; Koserelli, Simone; Nader, Marc; Serof, Gregoire; Zgheib, Hani
Lecturers:	Alamuddin, Hana; Arida, Sara-Jane; Assi, Naji; Bakhos, Walid; Boyadjian, Rafi; Dajani, Tarek; Debs, Habib; EL-Hage Boutros, Pierre; Feschfesch, Antoine; Freiji, Mayda; Haddad, Rana; Hamdan, Fadi; Jaber, Raghda; Jabr, Abdulhalim; Jamal, Sany; Kaloutsian, Paul; Kanaan, Joy; Karanouh, Rena; Khoury, Abir; Mallat, Bernard; Nader, Karim; Nasrallah, Maha; Samara, Rana; Shihab-Eldin, Luma; Traboulsi, Jana; Yeretziyan, Aram; Younes, Hala
Instructors:	Abboud, Rania; Aramouny, Carla; Baki, Fadi; Bekdache, Nadine; El-Abed, Zeina; Gharbieh, Ahmad; Hachem, Pascal; Imam, Hatem; Kahwagi, Bassam; Kassab, Sandra; Khoury, Roula; Maasri, Ghassan; Richani, Sandra; Sinno, Tarik; Youssef, Shawki; Zahreddine, Hassan
Assistant Instructors:	Captan, Lara; Idriss, Rola

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 of the 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.

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
URPL /URDS	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
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.

The aim of this course is to build on students' knowledge and skills in improving the quality of the physical urban environment and reinforcing the identity of place through design intervention. A selected study area is investigated in terms of its morphological evolution and unique physical features with a clear reading of the social, institutional, and economic dynamics impacting urban form. Through a critical assessment of development and planning processes, a set of design guidelines are articulated on sector, subsector and block levels. The outcome consists of scale drawings and 3D representations with an explicative written report emphasizing design problematic, methodology, recommendations and implementation framework.

URDS 603 Design Thesis 6 cr.

Supervised research and design is conducted individually by the student leading first to a thesis proposal approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and culminating in a final thesis in urban design. A thesis is expected to test either an approach/tool in the local context or inform a conception/theorization of a particular planning and/or design issue on the basis of a grounded investigation. All theses need to lead to practical recommendations and/or a well-formulated proposal for an intervention that qualify them as contributions to the fields of 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 enrolled in the Urban Design and Urban Planning and Policy to current debates and practices in the field of planning in lower income countries, looking at how, where, and by whom interventions in the city are being generated and how the goals of such interventions have evolved over the past decades. The course is conducted in seminar format where students learn to discuss and interpret approaches and test their applicability to the local and regional context of the Middle-East. Special value is placed on allowing students to articulate their own positions as future professional planners.

URPL 632 Urbanism 3 cr.

This course is designed as an introduction for students in urban design and urban planning and policy 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. Special emphasis is placed on the implications of these theories to the practice of urban planning and design and to their relevance in the regional context.

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 in its regional context. 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?); Urban Heritage and the Politics of the Present Perspectives from the Middle East, and Spaces of Faith and Fun.

URPL 661 **Planning and Design Workshop** **6 cr.**
See description of URDS 601.

URPL 663 **Urban Land Use Planning** **3 cr.**
Planning has gone through many permutations since the early beginnings and has drawn, and continues to draw, on theory from several disciplines like economics, political science, environmental science, esthetics, etc. Planners' roles have followed suit in moving between public and private sectors, and assuming several roles in various organizational settings. At this time, most of the debates have not been resolved; rather the planning field has expanded to incorporate all the conflicting points of view. Hence the context becomes very important as it influences the role of the planner and dictates the range of activities possible. With that in mind, we examine land use planning in the context of Lebanon, and the role of planners and planning institutions. Emphasis is put throughout the course on the *practice of planning*, focusing on Lebanon, and bringing in theory as well as other countries' practices as needed to provide a frame of reference.

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. A thesis is expected to build on a real case study context and either test an approach/tool in the local context or inform a conception/theorization of a particular planning and/or design issue on the basis of a grounded investigation. All theses need to lead to practical recommendations and/or a well-formulated proposal for an intervention that qualify them as contributions to the fields of 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 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.

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.