The University continues to expand its offerings related to the built environment. These courses span a wide range of departments and ways of working/thinking; sometimes it’s hard to differentiate between available courses, or even find them. We hope this (inevitably incomplete) guide may serve as a useful starting point.

Built Environment Course Types

Architectural studies: courses focusing on buildings and groupings of buildings, from any time or place. May deal with how buildings get designed, or with how people respond to and use them, or both. Emphasis on reading, looking, writing. Some courses may also include some limited visual exercises, such as making analytic diagrams.

Architecture design studios: creative studio courses in which students are guided to produce their own architectural designs around a particular purpose or theme.

Urban studies: courses focusing on how people live in cities. May focus on the environmental or social aspects of cities alone – e.g., demography, politics, economics, policy, ecology, planning processes – or examine both city dwellers and their physical built environment. These courses may be essay-based, or project-based (e.g. some visual exercises, such as an analysis of or proposal for an urban area).

Urban design studios: creative studio courses in which students are guided to produce their own designs for planning or reorganizing a city or part of one.

Thematic courses: courses, for example, in the literature or cinema of a particular city, taking the built environment as part of the subject matter.

Skill-Building Courses: courses that teach relevant technical skills (e.g. GIS).

It may be useful to email instructors (whose CNET IDs are listed with course names) to seek more info about how courses engage the built environment.

Some Places to Look for Courses


Minors: Architectural Studies, Environmental & Urban Studies

Course Clusters: Chicago Studies (also offers a certificate), Urban Design

Special Programs: Chicago Studies Quarter (spring), some Study Abroad programs.

For majors and minors, find course lists and more info on department websites (often the most up-to-date) as well as the college catalog and "class search". For course clusters and Chicago Studies Quarter, see the "Interdisciplinary Opportunities" section of the college catalog, which gives links to their individual websites. For Study Abroad program websites, google “Study Abroad UChicago”.

For a sense of the range of courses offered in a single sample quarter, see the list on the back. It may not be exhaustive or 100% up-to-date because occasionally courses are added or canceled on short notice. For more info on specific course areas, you may contact:

Katherine Taylor (Art History) / k-taylor@ Professor; Faculty Advisor, Arch. Studies Minor

Emily Talen / talen@ Professor, Environmental & Urban Studies Courses

Sabina Shaikh (Env. & Urb. Studies) / sabina@ Director, Envir. & Urban Studies Major and Minor

Luke Joyner (Art History) / lukejoy@ Lecturer, Urban Architecture & Design Studios
AUTUMN 2020 COURSES

(Note: this list may not be complete, and the modalities listed on this sheet may not be up to date; please consult the course search website, contact us, or contact instructors directly if you’d like more information.)

Fully Remote:

Advanced Fiction Workshop: Home
CRWR 22139 [consent required]
Mitchell S. Jackson (mitchellsjackson@)

Cities by Design
ENST 26005 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Emily Talen (talen@)

Drawing and the Making of Architecture
ARTH 17002 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Dario Donetti (ddonetti@)

Environmental Justice in Chicago
ENST 25704 / Sarah Fredericks (sfredericks@)

Geographic Information Science I
GEOG 28202 [ARCH minor pre-approved]*
Kevin Credit (kcredit@)

The Global Urban
[In Hong Kong program]
ENST 26801 / Marco Garrido (garrido@)

The Greek Countryside
CLCV 27116 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Catherine Kearns (cmkearns@)

Human Impact on the Global Environment
ENST 21201 / Alison Anastasio (aea@)

Introduction to Black Chicago, 1893-2010
HIST 18806 / Adam Green (apgreen@)

Intro to Genres: Division and Western
CRWR 12117 / Garin Cycholl (gcycho1@)

Intro to Location Analysis
GEOG 25900 / Kevin Credit (kcredit@)

Introduction to Urban Sciences
ENST 24600 / Luis Bettencourt (bettencourt@)

Mesoamerican Architecture
ARTH 16010 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Claudia Brittenham (brittenham@)

Pandemics, Urban Space, and Public Life
ENST 20170 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Evan Carver (ehc@)

Reading as a Writer: Questions of Travel
CRWR 12129 / Will Boast (wboast@)

Sex and Gender in the City
ENST 12105 / Sneha Annavarapu (sneha@)

Structuring China’s Built Environment
EALC 18606 / Zhenru Zhou (zhenru@)

Understanding the Built Environment
ARTH 20700 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Katherine Taylor (kt14@)

Urban Design with Nature
ENST 27155
E. Talen (talen@) & S. Shaikh (sabina@)

Urban Policy Analysis
SOCI 20120 / Terry Clark (tnclark@)

Writing the City
ENST 20180 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Evan Carver (ehc@)

Flexible, Hybrid or In-Person (please ask):

Imagining Chicago’s Common Buildings
ARTH 24190 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Luke Joyner (lukejoy@)

Outside: An Archival Impulse
ARTV 21008 / Amber Ginsburg (amberginsburg@)

The Planned Economy: A Global History of Cent...
EALC 29430 / M. Lowenstein (mlowenstein@)

Projections in the Vivosphere
ARTH 24194 [ARCH minor pre-approved]
Andrew Schachman (schachman@)

* Note for architecture minors: you may count one GIS course (not all three) toward program.

Kelly O’Brien (kmobrien@) now provides part-time administrative support for built environment courses; please reach out to her or Luke (lukejoy@) if you have comments on this sheet, or if there’s any way it can be a more useful resource.