

Global Metropolitan Studies

The 21st century will be an urban century with more people around the world residing in metropolitan regions than in any other form of human settlement. This urbanization is taking place in both the global North and the global South. Its implications are widespread: from environmental challenges to entrenched patterns of segregation to new configurations of politics and social movements. The Global Metropolitan Studies Initiative is concerned with this urban condition. This multidisciplinary endeavor brings together numerous faculty and supports research and houses graduate and undergraduate curricula. It is one of a handful of strategic initiatives selected by the UC Berkeley campus to mark a new generation of scholarship and to consolidate an emerging academic field.

The objective of the designated emphasis (DE) is to encourage and support multidisciplinary doctoral-level education and research on global metropolitan issues. Multidisciplinary training will be provided through a wide range of course offerings as well as through participation in seminars and conferences organized by GMS.

The Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies is for selected UC Berkeley PhD students with interest in metropolitan and regional issues. Students may come from any discipline across campus. The designated emphasis provides students with certification as well as with a context for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and development of research.

The list of core GMS faculty can be found here: metrostudies.berkeley.edu/about/core-faculty (<https://metrostudies.berkeley.edu/about/core-faculty/>)

The list of affiliated GMS faculty can be found here: metrostudies.berkeley.edu/about/faculty-affiliates (<https://metrostudies.berkeley.edu/about/faculty-affiliates/>)

Applicants must already be enrolled or accepted into an existing PhD program at Berkeley (master's students and students at other institutions are not eligible). Students should apply at least two semesters before the PhD qualifying examination.

Interested students must apply for the designated emphasis. They are selected on the basis of academic qualifications, appropriateness of their interests to the program's teaching resources, and the enrollment capacity of the required courses.

Admission to the GMS Designated Emphasis is determined by the GMS co-chairs. Applications are due one week prior to the last day of the fall and spring semester.

The GMS DE application, and list of additional required documents, can be found here (<http://metrostudies.berkeley.edu/designated-emphasis/>).

Curriculum

Students in the designated emphasis program must complete two core courses required for the designated emphasis.

In addition to the two core courses, students in the Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies are required to take three additional courses for graduate credit on topics in metropolitan studies. Students must either select from the GMS - DE Electives List or

petition for an outside course from the GMS Co-Directors (<http://metrostudies.berkeley.edu/about/co-directors/>). DE Electives must be taken for graduate credit unless otherwise noted on the Electives List. No more than one elective course for the DE can be taken from the student's home department. Note that not every course will be offered in any given year.

Elective courses should be completed prior to advancing to candidacy. Students may substitute no more than one course not on the list, with the approval of the Curriculum Committee.

Core Courses

GMS 200	Global Metropolitan Studies: Introduction to Theories, Histories, and Methods ¹	3
GMS 201	Research Seminar in Comparative Urban Studies	3

Electives

See Program Statement for List of Approved Electives ²

¹ This course is designed to examine metropolitan development through history and consider metropolitan issues from the varied perspectives of the social sciences and the professions. This course must be taken for a letter grade, and should be taken precandidacy.

² Designated Emphasis Electives List (http://live-global-metropolitan-studies.pantheon.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/documents/GMS%20Designated%20Emphasis%20Electives%202017-2018_4.pdf)

Qualifying Exam

The student's PhD qualifying exam committee must include at least one member of the Global Metropolitan Studies Graduate Group core faculty, who will evaluate the student's knowledge related to the designated emphasis.

Once the student has completed the Application for the Qualifying Exam (http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/qe_application.pdf) and the GMS qualifying exam checklist (located in the student handbook), they should submit both forms to the GMS DE graduate office in 226 Wurster Hall for the head graduate adviser's signature.

Dissertation

The student's dissertation topic also must be related to Global Metropolitan Studies and the dissertation committee must include at least one member of the GMS Graduate Group core faculty who can evaluate the dissertation from that perspective.

Global Metropolitan Studies

Expand all course descriptions [+]
Collapse all course descriptions [-]

GMS 200 Global Metropolitan Studies: Introduction to Theories, Histories, and Methods 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

The investigation of modern cities presents great challenges for social and urban theory. This seminar addresses these challenges through a multidisciplinary perspective that structures the discussion in terms of a history of metropolitan transformations, global urbanization, and the production and regulation of cities as spaces of contestation and creativity.

Global Metropolitan Studies: Introduction to Theories, Histories, and Methods: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Ph.D. student in Global Metropolitan Studies Designated Emphasis, or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Metropolitan Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Global Metropolitan Studies: Introduction to Theories, Histories, and Methods: [Read Less](#) [-]

GMS 201 Research Seminar in Comparative Urban Studies 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

This core seminar for the Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies offers an in-depth examination of contemporary research topics, data and methods, recent research findings, and challenges in specific subfields of international urban studies. Emphasis will be placed upon the discussion and improvement of students' dissertation chapters.

Research Seminar in Comparative Urban Studies: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Ph.D. candidate in Global Metropolitan Studies Designated Emphasis or consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Metropolitan Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Post

Research Seminar in Comparative Urban Studies: [Read Less](#) [-]

GMS C203 Subnational and Urban Politics in Low and Middle-Income Countries 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2013

This course will consider the political and institutional environment in which efforts to address metropolitan problems are developed, the financial and institutional vehicles used to provide services of different types, and the role of political parties and other forms of political organization in the development and allocation of services. Emphasis will be placed upon fertile areas for research within the social sciences.

Subnational and Urban Politics in Low and Middle-Income Countries:

[Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Metropolitan Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: POL SCI C203

Subnational and Urban Politics in Low and Middle-Income Countries:

[Read Less](#) [-]

GMS C215 Global Urban Inequalities 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course is animated by the question: what is global and urban about inequalities? It has two aims. First, it focuses on the historical-geographies of globalization and cities, and unpacks how cities are embedded within wider networks of capitalism. Second, it explores the many meanings and political projects around decolonizing the city, and looks at at unlearning, anti-imperialism, abolition, epistemic justice as concrete actions to combat global urban inequalities.

Global Urban Inequalities: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Metropolitan Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Balakrishnan

Also listed as: CY PLAN C215

Global Urban Inequalities: [Read Less](#) [-]

GMS 299 Independent Study or Research 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

Individual study or research program; must be worked out with GMS faculty in advance of signing up for credits.

Independent Study or Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Restricted to GMS Designated Emphasis Ph.D. students

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 5.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Metropolitan Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Independent Study or Research: Read Less [-]