Course XI offers flexibility

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they are different from students who are studying urban medicine. The students in Course XI have certain things in common, such as concern for people and the cities that they are not taught to them in class.

Each student has to take four courses from a list of twelve restricted electives. The purpose of this requirement is to give the students a survey of the many areas of urban studies and an appreciation for what others in the field are doing. These courses are structured so that they are within parameters, but they are still taught on an advanced level. Students in Course XI do not consider these gen courses; in fact, they claim that the catalogue hours are an accurate estimate of what is required.

If you are interested in learning about the department, try picking courses from the list of restricted electives. Highly recommended courses are 1.05, Urban Social Structure and Process and 11.30, Introduction to City Design and Environmental Policy. Next year Praine Rabinowitz, a Stability counselor will be teaching 11.06, The Policies of Planning. She received her doctorate from the MIT Department of Political Science, so she is well aware of what MIT is like.

Dee, when being interviewed, said that "part of learning urban studies is learning how to adapt the real world." That belief is prevalent throughout the department, and for that reason undergraduate research and graduate research is projects like the analysis of the Middlesex County Government. Although the department is composed of so many areas of concentration and only to take 48 units in that department, it is difficult. For instance, it is difficult to find research funds to handle the influx of students. The department is a positive one. It is constantly growing in undergraduate enrollment and still has a large enough faculty and enough research funds to handle the influx of students. The course requirements encourage specialization, however, they do not force students into specific areas. Each student chooses his own area of concentration and has only to take 48 units in that area. In fact, the 48 units do not have to be taken in Course XI, nor do they have to be classroom credits. Independent study, research, tutorials, and student suggestions are ways of meeting the requirement. The goal of the requirement is student expertise, not class filling.

There are two courses required of all majors. These are the junior and senior colloquium. It is interesting that rather than require the basic courses to give the students the "fundamentals," this department requires the advanced courses is an attempt "to tie things together."

"In the colloquia we bring the students together and try to show them what their classmates are doing in related, yet different, fields have been doing," stated Suskind. The junior colloquium discusses problems that people in urban studies do not confront. The problems in the field define the problems and the different approaches used to study the problems.

The senior colloquium, which is taught by Suskind, studies national urban policy decision making. Regarding your area in urban studies, you are inevitably confronted by problems from the national level. It is important to understand why decisions are made that affect the cities. The senior colloquium discusses the decision making inputs of lobbyists, congress, the executive branch, and other nationally oriented groups.

The impression presented by the department is a positive one. It is constantly growing in undergraduate enrollment and still has a large enough faculty and enough research funds to handle the influx of students. The course requirements encourage specialization, however, they do not force students into specific areas. Each student chooses his own area of concentration and has only to take 48 units in that area. In fact, the 48 units do not have to be taken in Course XI, nor do they have to be classroom credits. Independent study, research, tutorials, and student suggestions are ways of meeting the requirement. The goal of the requirement is student expertise, not class filling.

The field of urban studies is constantly expanding. Today, hospital administrations are produced by departments of urban planners - no longer are urban planners limited to arguing with politicians for more reform. If you want to work with people in cities, the field of urban planning has room for you, essential it is important to understand how you want to help people. However, you had better have some idea of what you want to do for, unlike other departments at MIT, the Urban Studies and Planning Department does not channel its students into one or two areas.

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