This multidisciplinary course will look at the nature of the city, the processes that influence the nature of urban change, and the future of the city. Throughout the course, we will touch on many basic urban themes and theories including culture, transportation, segregation, sustainability, etc. As we build up a background in basic urban theories, written and verbal assignments will provide students the opportunity to develop individual perspectives, explore specific interests, and become familiar with urban scholars and scholarly resources, and make connections between theory and current events (in Milwaukee as well as other national and international cities).

There are a number of issues and themes within urban studies and this course will aim to survey a diverse, though not exhaustive, selection of those themes. By the end of the semester every student should be able to identify some of the major challenges facing American and international cities today. This will include issues related to housing, mobility, violence, the environment, and so forth. The overarching objective is to provide students with the beginnings of a foundation in urban studies theory and current events; further, this course will give students a sense of the many issues within urban studies in need of ongoing research and intervention and thus aid in identifying potential future areas of study and focus.

For more information contact Urban Studies Programs, Bolton 702 or email: jmh@uwm.edu.