Topics in the City: The Sustainable City
Prof. Steven Moga

Cities have often been understood as something apart from nature, not a part of it. This course revolves around the question of how we conceive of the natural environment of the city. Students will critically consider how “nature” and “landscape” have been defined historically, as well as contemporary ideas of ecological or sustainable design and the “green” city. Looking closely at specific sites and processes in the city, including the location and function of parks and open space, waterfronts, and urban systems such as transportation, water supply, and waste disposal, we will ask a series of questions about the natural and the human-made, the cityscape and the landscape, the urban and the pastoral. Students will gain a better understanding of contemporary debates about city form and urban futures, as well as a grounding in the social thought and theory of nature and the city.