



Urban Systems

Manager: John Brown

Primary Instructor: Jelena Prokopljević jelena_pro@yahoo.com

Introduction

This seminar offers a comprehensive overview of the city's urban and architectural history, from its Roman origins to the contemporary era. Lectures and field studies follow a chronological sequence in order to highlight the inter-relation of urban design strategies, landscape and public space projects with cultural, economic and political programs. An important theme of the seminar will be to explore urban regeneration projects that reconfigure historic sites and neighborhoods.

The focus will be on traditional and contemporary public spaces in the city. For the last 30 years Barcelona has been an important center for debate about public space. The city presents a wide array of historic but also contemporary case studies for exploring the civic realm, new definitions of landscape, Mediterranean density and hybrid public spaces that combine logistical and infrastructural issues with public space. New strategies and practices in design that include users' participation and environmental sensibility, that emerged from the economic crisis, over-tourism, pollution and the pandemics will also be discussed.

Objectives

- To understand historic and contemporary issues affecting urban development, quality and city life.
- To develop skills and ability to conduct critical research and comparative analysis of past and current urban and architectural initiatives with other case studies.
- To understand broader social, political, economic, and design impulses underlying urban transformation.
- To develop the skills, techniques & vocabulary to describe, analyze and understand urban form and its evolution
- To critically review theories, methods and concepts in urban design
- To be able to critically analyze urban form.
- To be able to articulate a personal approach to urban design

Content

The course will consist of lectures, site visits, and case studies on public space.

Teaching Approach

The class will meet one or two times weekly from May 3 to June 12 on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in 3 hour-long sessions. A final presentation double session will be on June 12. Please check the calendar and syllabus for days, times and meeting points since these vary.

Content: Topic Areas

1. Wednesday, May 3

**Introduction to the course and presentation of project topics.
Barcelona's urban evolution from the Roman origins.**

Required Reading:

1. Busquets, Joan. "From its origins to capital of the medieval Mediterranean." In *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*. Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005, pp. 23-55.
2. Busquets, Joan "From the urbanisation of the Raval to the start of industrialisation". In *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*. Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005, pp. 57-97.

2. Monday, May 5

Field Study: Ciutat Vella: The historic city center and its regeneration

Meeting Point: In front of the Union of Catalan Architects (COAC)

Gothic Area, Ribera and Raval Area. Special focus on traces of history, urban regeneration and the reuse of existing constructions. The creation of new institutions and the problems of gentrification and tourism.

Required Reading:

1. Subirats, Joan and Rius, Joachim. From the Xino to the Raval. Barcelona: Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona. 2006. pp. 1-29.

3. Wednesday, May 10

Project groups chosen and first meeting.

Barcelona's 19th century Expansion and the 1888 World Exposition. The Catalan Renaissance and Modernisme. Industrialization of Barcelona and its consequences. Ildefons Cerdà's Eixample Plan. The cultural and political context of Catalan Modernism. The major practitioners (Gaudi, Domenech i Montaner, Puig i Cadafalch).

Required Reading:

1. Busquets, Joan. "The Cerdà Plan, A Pioneering Work in Modern Urban Planning" in *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*. Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005, pp 122-142.
2. Busquets, Joan. "Barcelona city of innovation". In *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*. Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005. pg 122-142 and pp 151-176.
3. Hughes, Robert. "The Hermit in the Cave of Making in Barcelona" in *Barcelona*. Vintage 1992. pp 373-464.

4. **Monday, May 15**

Field Study: Catalan Modernism city walk

Meeting Point: Arch of Triumph, Metro L1

Landmarks of the 1888 EXPO and their relation with the city, Via Laietana as the new avenue through the historic core, Passeig de Gràcia, the 19th century promenade, 3 buildings of the Gaudí's golden decade: Casa Clavet, Casa Batlló and Casa Milà, 3 buildings by Puig i Cadafalch: 4 Cats, the bohemian café, Casa Amatller and Casa de les Punxes, 3 Buildings by Domenech i Montaner: Palace of Catalan Music, Casa Lleó Morera and Casa Fuster.

Required Reading:

1. Busquets, Joan. "The Turn of the Century and Greater Barcelona" in *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*, Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005. pp: 189-196 and 204-228.

5. **Wednesday, May 17**

Noucentisme and the 1929 Worlds Exposition. The Functional City: the GATEPAC and Le Corbusier. The Macià Plan, Casa Bloc and the Spanish Pavillion 1939.

Required Reading:

1. Busquets, Joan. "The Barcelona of a Million Inhabitants. The GATCpac and the Functional City" in *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*, Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005. pp: 248-263.
2. Nico Calavita and Amador Ferrer. "Behind Barcelona's Success Story-Citizen Movements and Planner's Power. in Marshall, Tim, ed. *Transforming Barcelona*. London: Routledge, 2003. pp- 47-63

Recommended Reading:

1. Alix, Josefina. "From War to Magic: The Spanish Pavillion Paris 1937", in *Barcelona and Modernity: Picasso, Gaudi, Miro, Dali*. Ed. Robinson, William H., Falgàs Jordi, Lord, Carmen Belen. Yale University Press, 2006. Pp. 450-457
2. Lejeune, Jean-François. "The Modern and the Mediterranean in Spain. Sert, Coderch, Bohigas, de la Sota, del Amo". In *Modern Architecture and the Mediterranean. Vernacular Dialogues and Contested Identities*. London 2010. pp. 65-93.

6. **Monday, May 22**

Field Study: Montjuic

Meeting Point: Plaza España, Metro L1 and L3 – the tower to the right, looking up at Montjuic.

The significance of the 1929 World Exhibition Structures, Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, Caixa Forum, The National Palace, old Botanic Garden, Olympic Ring, Joan Miró Foundation, the Greek amphitheater and the Mercat de les Flors, performing arts center.

7. Wednesday, May 24

Progress meeting for each group by request

The city in the Franco era. The transition. The Barcelona Model. The Olympic city. Comparison with the Bilbao effect.

Required Reading:

1. Montaner, Josep Maria. "The Evolution of the Barcelona Model (1973-2004)." In *Critical Files. The Barcelona Model 1973-2004*. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona and Department of Architectural Composition of the ETSAB. pp. 11-26.
2. Busquets, Joan. "Barcelona's Recovery in the Eighties. Urban Development in the Form of Projects, Programmes and Strategies" in *Barcelona : The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*. Cambridge: Harvard College, 2005. Pp. 343-409.
3. Kligman, Anna. "Beyond Bilbao". In *Brandscapes: Architecture in the Experience Economy*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 2007. pp. 237-253.

Recommended Reading

1. Nuria Benach. "Public Spaces in Barcelona 1980-2000" in Marshall, Tim. ed. *Transforming Barcelona*. London: Routledge, 2003, pp 151- 159.

8. Wednesday, May 31

Field Study: Post-Industrial Barcelona

Meeting point: Glories square in front of the Design Museum Metro L1

Glories square transformation and cultural institutions, 22@ and superbloc project, Poble Nou Park, Diagonal Mar Park, Forum 2004

Required Reading:

1. Ingrosso, Chiara. "The City in the Global Economy 1993-2015" In *Barcelona: Architecture, City and Society 1975-2015*. Torino: Skira, 2011. pp. 99-169.
2. Frampton, Kenneth. "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance." In *The Anti-Aesthetic. Essays on Postmodern Culture*. Ed. Foster, Hal. Seattle: Bay Press. 1983. pp.16-30.
3. Waldheim, Charles. "Landscape Urbanism: A Genealogy". In *Praxis 4* October 2002. pp.12-17.

9. Monday, June 05

Field Study: The Periphery

Meeting Point: L3 Green Line Metro. Exit: Palau Olímpic Vall d'Hebron

Pavilion of the Spanish Republic, Vall d'Hebron Olympic area, Labyrinth parc, Parc Central de Nou Barris

Required Reading:

1. Mari Paz Balibrea. Urbanism, culture and the post-industrial city: Challenging the Barcelona Model" in Marshall, Tim ed. Transforming Barcelona. London: Routledge, 2003, pp. 205-224

10. **Wednesday, June 07.**

Project progress meetings

Contemporary issues. Memory, Conflict and Activism, Overtourism and renaturalization of the urban space.

Required Reading:

1. Milano, Claudio. "Overtourism and Tourismphobia: Global trends and local contexts." Technical Report of the Ostelea School of Tourism and Hospitality, 2018. pp 1-46.

2. García García, Miriam. "Spanish coastal landscapes after speculative tsunamis." In Ed. Arana, Juan and Franchini, Teresa, Strategies for the Post-speculative City. Association of European Schools of Planning. pp. 83-94.

3. De la Peña, David. "Participation and activism; the case of Can Batlló." In Critical Files. The Barcelona Model, 1973-2004. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona and Department of Architectural Composition of the ETSAB. Pp. 277-286.

Recommended Reading

4. Wilson, Rob.(text) Shulz-Dornburg, Julia (photo essay).

"Modern Ruins: a Topography of Profit." in Uncube Magazine. No. 9. Constructing Images. Pp. 39-56. <http://www.uncubemagazine.com/sixcms/detail.php?id=9030109&articleid=art-1366017474631-27#!/page40>

5. Aftermath: http://toormix.com/es/project/aftermath_catalonia-in-venice-2016/

6. Unfinished: <http://unfinished.es/en/>

11, 12. **Monday June 12: Double Session PRESENTATIONS**

Evaluation Criteria

Students working in pairs will analyze a series of public space projects in Barcelona. See the project description page.

Process Work: Collecting, Gathering, Researching 20%

Presentation: 30%

Final Booklet: 50%

Important Dates:

Monday, May 3: Introduction to the problem and the topics

Wednesday, May 10: Groups and topics chosen. First meeting with instructor

Wednesday, May 24: Progress meetings with groups

Wednesday, June 07: Progress meetings with groups

Final Presentation June 12: Each group has approximately 20 minutes to present and 10 for feedback.

Hand in Booklets July 1 taking into account comments from the presentations and including the requested improvements.

Grading Scale

Faculty shall use the following methods for reporting grades and for determining final grades. Final grades shall be reported as letter grades, with the grade point value as per column 2. Final grades shall be calculated according to the 4-point range in column 3. Should faculty members evaluate any individual exams or assignments by percentage grades, the equivalents shown in column 4 shall be used.

Students must be informed of the method of calculation, and should be able to, from the grades provided by the instructor, determine their standing.

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Assignment(s) evaluated by percentage grades will be converted into letter grade equivalents as shown.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	76-79.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	73-75.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-72.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	66-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	63-65.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	60-62.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	56-59.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	50-55.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-49.99	

- A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

Readings

The required and recommended readings for the course are listed with the schedule of classes.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/ .

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised. In addition, the student should refer to the SAPL's Procedure for reappraisal of grades

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk