Urban Systems

Manager: John Brown

Primary Instructor: Suzanne Strum

Introduction
This seminar offers a comprehensive overview of the city’s urban and architectural history, from the Roman founding 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.

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 September 4 to October 16 on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 in 3 hour-long sessions. A final presentation session will be on October 16. Please check the calendar and syllabus for days, times and meeting points since these vary.

Content: Topic Areas

1. Wed. September 4
   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

2. **Monday September 9**

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

Meeting Point: In front of the Santa Caterina Market

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

**Required Reading:**


3. **Monday Sept. 16**

**Barcelona’s 19th century Expansion and the 1888 World Exposition. The Catalan Renaissance and Modernisme.** Ildefons Cerdà’s Eixample Plan. The cultural and political context of Catalan art nouveau. The major practitioners (Gaudi, Domenech I Montaner, Puig I Cadafalch).

**Project groups chosen and first meeting.**

**Required Reading:**


4. **Wednesday September 18**

**Field Study: Colonia Güell**

Meeting Point: Plaça Espanya  Metros L3 L1 and L8

(Looking up at Montjuic from Plaça Espanya you will see two brick towers. Sit to the right of the towers on the steps.) We will be taking a train to Colonia Güell a factory town created by Gaudi and his disciples for Eusebi Güell.

**Required Reading:**


5. **Wed. September 25**


**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


6. **Monday September 30**  
Field Study: Montjuic  
Meeting Point: The Jardi Botanic  
The significance of the 1929 World Exhibition Structures, Botanic Garden, Olympic Ring, Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, Caixa Forum.

7. **Wed. Oct. 2** 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:**


**Recommended Reading**

8. **Monday October 7**  
Field Study: Post-Industrial Barcelona  
Forum 2004, Diagonal Mar Park, Poble Nou Park, 22@ área, Glories  
Meeting point: Metro Yellow L4 Maresme/Forum exit Rambla del Prim  

**Required Reading:**


9. **Wed. October 9**  
Field Study: The Periphery  
Vall de Hebron, Laberinth to Parc Central  
Meeting Point: L3 Green Line Metro. Mundet exit on Mountain side  

**Required Reading:**

10. Monday October 14  Project progress meetings
Contemporary issues. Memory, Conflict and Activism, and Overtourism.

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading


11, 12. Wednesday October 16: 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:
Wednesday Sept. 4: Introduction to the problem
September 16: Groups and topics chosen. First meeting with instructor
October 2: Progress meetings with groups
Final Presentation October 16: Each group has approximately 20 minutes to present and 10 for feedback. Hand in Booklets taking into account comments on November 7.

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.

<table>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>4-Point Range</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>92.5-100</td>
<td>Outstanding - evaluated by instructor</td>
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Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; 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/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student’s own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when: (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work, (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author, (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or, (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE: If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty. https://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/

More student support and resources (e.g. safety and wellness) can be found here: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines

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Notes:

- 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.

- All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.