Explorations in the Public Realm

EVDS 683 Elective Course for Barcelona/Tokyo. (H 3-0)

Fall 2018

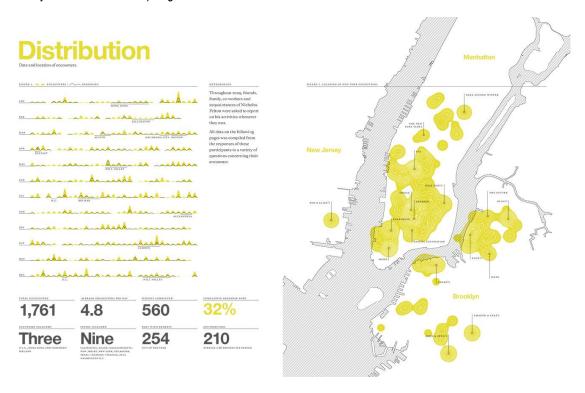
Instructor: Marc Boutin, boutin@ucalgary.ca

Introduction

This is an elective course designed for students who are participating in the Studies Abroad Program in Barcelona or Tokyo.

This design research course will explore themes embedded within the public realm through primary research in the city, data representation, precedent analysis, and selected readings. The idea of the public realm has been provoked in recent years with concepts such as terrain vague, residual spaces, flows, social agency, and emergent territories. These constituent concepts integral in defining the contemporary city are to be observed in all cities as a function of piecemeal development strategies, historic layering of the city, and other planned and organic evolutions of the city. Barcelona and Tokyo are both excellent laboratories to explore facets of the public realm through mapping, diagramming, strategy and scenario generation.

Specifically, this course will focus on revealing the performative aspects of the public realm as they pertain to time-based transformations: diurnal cycles that allow the city to adapt, evolve, and respond as the stage for public life. This is a critical understanding of the city and its public realm, moving away from static representations of space towards a more fulsome understanding of how space acts as a catalyst for change; an investment into the immaterial aspects of the city. Integral to this understanding is the idea of socially constructed space and the social production of space as defined by the American anthropologist Setha Low.



Objectives

- 1. To develop a quantitative and qualitative knowledge base related to the public realm through primary research, graphic documentation, design, and literature review.
- 2. To develop representation skills to analyse, interpret, and explore contemporary public realm phenomena.
- 3. To develop critical ideas and interpretations related to the public realm and articulate them in various media.

Teaching Approach

The course is delivered as a remote, structured directed study, wherein local field research in Barcelona or Tokyo plays a critical role. Students will receive a *Public Realm Primer* as a course reference manual that will frame the course process. The course offers a number of learning lens into the analysis, interpretation, and documentation of the phenomena that defines the operation and performance of the city, including readings, case studies, graphical methodologies, and design interventions. Each student will be working independently on a chosen public space for the duration of the term. Competed course material will be submitted to the course instructor digitally based on the course schedule.

Content and Evaluation

Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of relevant concepts that structure our reading of the contemporary public realm, exploring and documenting these through a graphic portfolio of local and international public realm case studies. Students are required to design an intervention within a public space they have studied and analyzed. Students are required to prepare a summary submission for grading. Students are expected to complete required readings and to participate in a class blog.

Graphic Case Study Portfolio (analysis, interpretation, intervention, testing) 80% Class Participation in Class Blog 20%

Schedule

Weeks 1-4	Readings, find and research Case Study Public Realm in Barcelona or Tokyo
Weeks 4-6	Analyse, Interpret, and graphically represent Case Study Public Realm
Weeks 6-9	Based on Analysis and Interpretation, create Intervention into Public Realm
Weeks 9-11	Test Intervention through different Scenarios
Weeks 11-12	Submit final Project Summary

Readings (further readings to be incorporated into Public Realm Primer)

Low, M. Setha Spatializing Culture: The Social Production and Social Construction of Public Space in

Costa Rica, American Ethnologist, Vol. 23, No. 4, Nov. 1996, pp. 861 -879

Guallart, Vicente (editor) Hicat: Hipercatalunya Research Terrtories, 2004, Actar Publishing

Klanten, Robert (editor) Data Flow: Visualizing Information in Graphic Design, 2008, Gesalten, Berlin

Klanten, Robert (editor) <u>Data Flow 2: Visualizing Information in Graphic Design,</u> 2010, Gesalten, Berlin

GRADING SCALE

The following equivalencies (the University of Calgary has no official percentage scale system) will be used in calculating grades: A+ (95.0-100.0); A (90.0-94.99); A- (85-89.99); B+ (80.0-84.99); B (75.0-79.99); B- (70.0-74.99); C+ (65.0-69.99); C (60.0-64.99); C- (55.0-59.99); D+ (50.0-55.99); D (45.0-49.99); F (0-44.99).

At the discretion of the instructor, assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

SPECIAL BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

Special budgetary requirements are limited to the optional purchase of course readings and, in specific courses, mandatory supplementary fees to cover certain expenditures, such as field trips. Mandatory supplementary fees must be approved by the University prior to implementation.

NOTES

- Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
- 2. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
- 3. Plagiarism 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 (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(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. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
- 4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
- 5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints)
- 6. Safewalk information (http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk)
- 7. Contact Info for: Student Union (https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/); Graduate Student representative(https://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/) and Student Ombudsman's Office (https://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/) and Student Ombudsman's Office (https://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/).
- 8. 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.
- 9. Students are expected to complete all course assignments on time. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course, however, if a student fails any phase of the course worth 30% or more they will fail the course. A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded may request to have the paper re-graded. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified of the mark or of the item's return to the class. More information can be found in the Graduate Calendar: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html