



## Urban Systems

**EVDS675 01 H(3-0)**  
**Fall 2019**

**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 *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 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:**

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

3. **Monday Sept. 16**

**Barcelona’s 19<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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. **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:**

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. **Wed. September 25**

**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 September 30**

**Field Study: Montjuic**

**Meeting Point: The Jardí Botànic**

**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:**

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. **Monday October 7**

**Field Study: Post-Industrial Barcelona**

Forum 2004, Diagonal Mar Park, Poble Nou Park, 22@ àrea, Glories

**Meeting point: Metro Yellow L4 Maresme/Forum exit Rambla del Prim**

**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. **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:**

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

**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/](http://toormix.com/es/project/aftermath_catalonia-in-venice-2016/)
6. Unfinished: <http://unfinished.es/en/>

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<sup>t</sup>: 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.

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	

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.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

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/](http://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](http://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>