DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

Course Information
Preparatory: TBA, see schedule
Trip: June 1 - June 16, 2018
Presentation Dissemination: Sept. 2018

Instructor
Jordi Honey-Roses: jhoney@mail.ubc.ca
Office Hours: RM 225, 1933 West Mall by appointment.

Erick Villagomez: Erick.Villagomez@ubc.ca
Office Hours: RM 230, 1933 West Mall by appointment.

Readings and Texts
Please refer to the Readings and reference texts section at the end of this document.

Course Description
This design-based course offers an in-depth look at Barcelona—historically and morphologically—across scales. By immersing themselves in the life of the city and partaking in series of site visits and original research, students will gain an understanding of the rich history of the city, its relationship to local culture and social circumstances, towards developing design ideas. Larger challenges and opportunities related to other cities globally will also come to the fore.

Although students of the School of Community and Regional Planning will be prioritized, this course is open to all graduate students of geography, urban design, landscape architecture, engineering, and architecture.

Course Format
The course will begin Pre-Trip sessions held between January and April that will help us prepare for our trip in early June. The Pre-trip sessions will consist of several 3 hr sessions and three assignments. These sessions will focus on researching and presenting critical background information on the city, as well as practicing the observation methods that we will use in Barcelona.
The Field Studio will immerse students within the context of Barcelona, allowing students to experience the city on-the-ground. This will be supplemented by in-situ research on one specific neighbourhood, where students will critically observe and analyze existing conditions towards the development of design ideas. These will be presented to a local audience for feedback.

Course Overview, Content and Objectives
Barcelona is one of the world’s major global cities. As one of Spain’s main nodes of culture, tourism, finance and trade, it’s contemporary importance is undisputed. Like any other urban centre, its current status developed incrementally over time; one that dates back to over 2000 years ago and saw it develop as the most significant industrial centre in Catalonia.

As with all settlements, Barcelona’s long and complex history has had a direct impact on its form—etched itself into the city’s urban fabric. However, unlike many other cities in the world, the built remnants of over 2000 years of cultural, social and urban development remains largely intact. From the medieval planning of the original roman settlement of Barcino, to the medieval streets of the Gothic Quarter, to Ildefons Cerdà’s unique Eixample grid—one of the largest planned housing projects in history—to the popular waterfront of the Port Olimpic, redeveloped for the 1992 Summer Olympics, the urban structure of Barcelona stands out as one-of-a-kind (Hughes 1992, Rowe 2006). Change continues today, as evident in the ambitious urban transformations of the “Superilles” or Super Blocks—which entails street pacification and the recovery of major streets for “public space” (Rueda 2017).

Yet the city has a hidden underbelly: despite Barcelona’s history of planning success—or perhaps because of it—there is growing discontent about how the city is being transformed. Most residents and visitors recognize the positive changes in the city over the last 30 years (Marshall 2004), and this success has attracted millions of visitors the Barcelona each year. But there is concern that the city’s carrying capacity has been reached or exceeded. The city centre is being transformed to meet the needs of the visitors, and tourism is displacing everyday life and everyday residents.

This puts forth an interesting conundrum: typical neoliberal market-driven logic would put Barcelona among the best cities in the world. However, its economic success has led to it becoming a more enjoyable place to visit, but a less enjoyable place to live, as commercial space is being converted to lucrative commercial uses that target visitors. Is Barcelona being transformed into a theme park, designed merely for the pleasure of those who visit?
In response to these pressures, a new and progressive City Government has declared a moratorium on the construction of new hotels in the city centre. The administration is also advancing other policies that will prioritize local residents and their use of the city. Are these policies really for locals, or are these initiatives simply masking standard global economic agendas?

This is just a small sampling of the complexity and contradictions of Barcelona. In this course, we are interested in confronting many difficult issues, as they not only pertain to local debates, but also broader issues around the nature of the forces that shape the contemporary city globally and their impacts across a range of scales.

In order to do so, we will experience Barcelona’s contrasting personalities—one focused on standard tourist destinations, the other looking in depth at the off-the-beaten-path neighbourhoods, with special attention to Poble Nou, where we will look at impacts of these recent transformations. This structure will allow us to test methods for recording, analyzing, and evaluating the material culture and the urban environment across scales but also build skills pertaining to field observation that are fundamental to undertaking a wide variety of urban design and planning efforts, including the design of streets and public places, shaping neighbourhood form and function, and incorporating natural systems into the urban fabric. Students will communicate their observations, findings and proposals through the use of representation tools.

We will aim to present our findings to a local audience – potentially a relevant planning agency or neighbourhood group - on our last day in Barcelona. Our final report will be co-authored by all participants and instructors and deposited in the UBC online repository Circle. Furthermore the data collected, the design proposals and our critical insights will be donated to the City in the hopes of informing future planning initiatives.

**PRE-TRIP PLANNING AND PREPARATION**

The class will hold several pre-trip sessions prior to the field component of the course. These sessions will cover introductory course content and logistics, as well as the research and presentation of the Pre-trip assignments that will investigate Barcelona from different, but complementary, perspectives and scales. One assignment will ask you to create a Timeline through one of five different themes—Natural Systems, Land-use, Transportation, Economics, Politics, Cultural History and Global Historical Context. The second assignment will focus on researching and presenting a specific site of significance. Finally, the third assignment will ask you to use methods of field observation at a site in Vancouver in order to practice the
observational methods we will use in Barcelona. These exercises will serve to ground our experience within a broader physical and cultural framework across scales and give us a relatively comprehensive understanding of the Barcelona area, prior to visiting the city.

FIELD WORK
The field component of the course will take place during the first two weeks of June 2018. Student will explore the city and region from an urban design and planning point of view. Within interdisciplinary teams, students will observe, collect information on and analysis critical aspects of the built environment: visually recording and documenting significant sites, pertinent details, important design concepts and ideas observed on location. Connecting design and planning solutions to site and context (cultural, historical, geographical, climatic) will be critical, as well as recognizing similarities and differences with Vancouver.

Learning Outcomes
This field course has been designed so that students will learn to:

- Use methods of field observation in the public realm.
- Contextualize their field learning, experiencing how culture, climate, geography, and history have influenced the development of local design and planning
- Evaluate design/planning solutions based on contextual experience, recognizing and defining terms common to design/planning
- Assimilate and communicate design/planning theory and knowledge with respect to the context of site, culture, climate, and geography
- Develop interdisciplinary skills in creativity, design thinking, academic inquiry, and cultural awareness
- Recognize and document stewardship in design/planning practice with regard to social, cultural, environmental, and universal design issues
- Articulate a graphic assessment of the physical features of an urban space
- Interpret, explain and create city information at different scales

Additional Course Requirements
Given that the course requires some understanding of the built environment, students will be expected to conduct research outside of class time in the form typical library and web-based searches, as well as the creation of visual material for presentation. When in Barcelona, students will also be expected to be able to walk for extended periods of time.
Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Late arrivals, early departures, prolonged breaks and absences are subject to disciplinary action in the form of a reduction in the final grade, or failure of the course. In the event that a student is unable to attend one or more site visits, alternate arrangements may be negotiated with the instructor to satisfy course requirements.

Conduct

Proper conduct is important under normal circumstances. The interdisciplinary nature of the course and travel make this even more critical. As such, it is expected that students conduct themselves in a professional, responsible manner, based on an understanding of the role and responsibility of representing the School of Community and Regional Planning, and the University of British Columbia.

Enrolment

We will hold an information session in September 2017 to describe the course and answer questions about course content, format and cost. The course will be open to 20 UBC students. While we expect most UBC students to be from Planning, Masters students from Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Geography, IRES, Engineering or other related disciplines would be welcome. Students proficient in the Spanish language will be given priority for enrolment.

Students interested in enrolling must submit a half page statement of interest and their CV. The statement of interest should answer the questions: Why are you interested in participating in this course? What could you contribute? What is your level of Spanish? Can you describe your design experience? Submit this with your CV by email to PLAN545Barcelona@gmail.com by September 30th 2017.

Assessment Methods

Evaluation will roughly abide by the following guidelines. It may be subject to change:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Trip: Timeline Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Trip: Site Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site: Investigation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site: Design Proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Booklet</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grading system used: LETTER GRADE
Assignments & Late Submissions
Turning assignments in on time is considered crucial in the interior design program. All assignments must be completed and submitted to receive a grade for this course. Late projects will affect the final grade in this course; 10% per day is deducted from the final grade for late submissions to a maximum of 3 calendar days from the date and time that an assignment is due. After 72 hours, a grade of zero will be allotted.

Peer Evaluation and Participation in Group Work
Working well in groups is an essential part of being an effective planner. Your peers will evaluate your contribution to the group and you will receive this feedback at the end of the course. This segment of your grade will be determined by your peer’s evaluation of your contribution to the team.

Lodging
Students will be provided lodging in triple or quad rooms. We are considering a stay at the Generator Hostel Barcelona (Carrer de Còrsega, 373), which is wonderfully located at the border of the Gràcia neighbourhood and the Eixample: a few blocks from the Barcelona Metro (Diagonal) and within walking distance of many of the major local sites (Passeig de Gràcia, Gothic Quarter, Sagrada Familia, etc.).

Cost
The program fee is between $2,700 - $3,000. The final fee depends on the number of students in the program and currency exchange. All qualifying students will receive a $1000 Go Global Award. More detail at the course Go Global web address: https://students.ubc.ca/career/international-experiences/global-seminars/barcelona-field-studio-barcelona-spain

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES
• In country group accommodations
• Program related travel (public transportation, group train tickets, etc.)
• Entrance fees to program related activities (museums, site locations, etc)
• On-site guest lecturers
• Workshops
• Go Global Fee

PROGRAM FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE
• Tuition*
• Flight*
• Incidents*

*UBC Tuition – Not included as a part of your costs. 
This amount will differ for domestic and international students. This
amount will be assigned to you on the Student Service Centre (SSC) according to normal UBC tuition timelines. Read about tuition fees. This amount is not determined or applied by Go Global. All students participating in a Global Seminar will have tuition applied to their SSC account.

*Flights - Not Included as a part of your costs
Travel to Barcelona, Spain is a separate cost. You are responsible for arranging your own travel. You should not book your flight until you are notified to book. All Go Global Seminars only run if there is a minimum number of students enrolled.

*Incidentals - Not Included as a part of your costs
Some examples include: personal mobile communication, personal transportation that is not related to the learning outcomes of the program, additional meals that are not already identified as part of the Program Fee, immunizations, Visas, etc.

Passports & Additional Required Materials
A valid passport with expiration date more than 6 months after date of departure, and/or any visas/vaccinations is required. Also, sketch-notebooks and media for recording, notation and drawing (cameras, etc.) are required.

Special Needs
Please inform the course instructor as soon as possible if you have special needs and require accommodation of any kind. Please visit http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/ for more information on campus resources.

Academic Integrity
The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work.

Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.
A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at http://calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0.

Readings and Reference

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Busquets, Joan, *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*
- Hughes, Robert. *Barcelona*
- Lefebvre, Henri. (1992) *The Production of Space*
- Laseau, Paul. *Visual Notes for Architects and Designers*
- Pray, Gregory, *Common Places*

ONLINE MATERIAL

- Planol BCN - https://w33.bcn.cat/planolBCN/ca/
- Poblenou Neighbourhood Association - http://www.elpoblenou.cat/
- Vox 2016. Superblocks: How Barcelona is taking back the city from cars - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZORzsubQA_M

• Bye, Bye Barcelona (2014) Documentary on the impacts of tourism in Barcelona. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdXcFChRpmI


• MIT Lecture, Julian Beinart: Lec 10: Transformations III: Vienna and Barcelona - https://theopenacademy.com/content/lecture-10-transformations-iii-vienna-and-barcelona


HIGHLY RECOMMENDED OPTIONAL TEXTS
• Busquets, Joan, “Cities and Grids: In Search of New Paradigms”
• Busquets, Joan, & Perez-Ramos, Pablo. Barcelona: Manifold Grids and the Creda Plan (Redesigning Gridded Cities
• Ching, Francis, Architecture: Form, Space and Order
• Cullen, Gordon, The Concise Townscape
• Grafton, Anthony & Rosenberg, Daniel, Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline
• Jacobs, Allan, Great Streets
• Jacobs, Allan, Looking at Cities
• Jenkins, Eric, To Scale
• Laseau, Paul, Graphic Thinking for Architects & Designers
• Morris, Anthony. (1994). History of Urban From Before the Industrial Revolution
• Orwell G (1938) Homage to Catalonia. Penguin Books
• Magrinyà, Francesc & Marzá, Fernando, (2017) Cerda: 150 Years of Modernity
OTHER USEFUL REFERENCES

- Diane Ackerman, *A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SENSES*
- Thomas Barrie, *SPIRITUAL PATH, SACRED PLACE: MYTH, RITUAL AND MEANING IN ARCHITECTURE*
- Gordon Cullen, *THE CONCISE TOWNSCAPE*
- Allan Jacobs, *LOOKING AT CITIES*
- Bryan Lawson, *THE LANGUAGE OF SPACE*
- Bryan Lawson, *HOW DESIGNERS THINK*
- William Lidwell, *UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN*
- Margaret Livingston, *VISION AND ART: THE BIOLOGY OF SEEING*
- Charles Moore and Donlyn Lyndon, *CHAMBERS FOR A MEMORY PALACE*
- William Moorish, *CIVILIZING TERRAINS*
- Donald Norman, *THE DESIGN OF EVERYDAY THINGS*
- Paul Stevenson Oles, *ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATION: THE VALUE DELINEATION PROCESS*
- Juhani Pallasmaa, *EYES OF THE SKIN*
- Simon Unwin, *ANALYZING ARCHITECTURE*
- Edward T. White, *SITE ANALYSIS*

Course Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule. It may be subject to change:

PRE-TRIP
- April 24       Course Introduction
- May 1          Pre-Trip Session 2
- May 8          Pre-Trip Session 3
- May 15         Pre-Trip Session 4
- May 22         Pre-Trip Session 5
- June 3 – June 16. Travel to Barcelona

IMPORTANT DATES
- Sun. June 3       Welcome Dinner
- Fri. June 15      Final Presentation to Partners
- Sat. June 16      Closing Debrief