

School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP)
University of British Columbia
DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number	PLAN 545c
Course Credits	6
Course Title	Barcelona Planning Studio
Term	Summer Term 2019
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Short Course Description

This field studio offers an in-depth look at Barcelona—historically and morphologically—across scales. Students will immerse themselves in the life of the city and partaking in series of site visits and original research in order to understand the rich history of the city, its relationship to local culture and social circumstances. We will observe how Barcelona is under global pressures that are typical of highly attractive global cities. Students of the School of Community and Regional Planning will be prioritized for enrollment, however this course is open to all graduate students of geography, urban design, landscape architecture, engineering, and architecture. Highly qualified undergraduate students may also be considered.

Course Format

Pre-Trip sessions will begin in late April 2019 and help us prepare for our trip in early June. The Pre-trip sessions will consist of four 3 hour 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.

With our strong foundation, the Field Trip, itself, 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 the Poblenou neighbourhood, where students will critically observe and analyze existing conditions towards the development of planning proposals. These proposals be presented to a local audience for feedback, and our final work will be compiled into a report.

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 and Spain.

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 Olímpic, 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 Poblenou, 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 relevant planning agency or neighbourhood group on our last day in Barcelona. Our final report will be co-authored by all participants in 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 four 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—*Land-use, Transportation, Natural Systems, 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.
- Describe how culture, climate, geography, and history have influenced the development of local design and planning
- Propose planning interventions based on contextual experience and field research
- Develop interdisciplinary skills in creativity, design thinking, academic inquiry, and cultural awareness
- Synthesize and interpret observational data on public life in public spaces
- Interpret, explain and create city information for a public audience

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 a the creation of visual material for presentation. 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.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

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

Pre-Trip: Timeline	10%
Pre-Trip: Site Assignment	10%
Pre-Trip: Methods Assignment	10%
On-site: Investigation, Design Proposal & Report	50%
Participation	20%

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.

Required Readings and Materials (TBD)

Readings will be posted to the course website on Canvas. In addition, students will be asked to read at least one (or more) of the following books. The final list will be determined at the start of our pre-departure sessions.

- Colau, A. & Alemany, A. (2013). *Vidas hipotecadas: de la burbuja inmobiliaria al derecho a la vivienda*. Cuadrilátero de libros. (Spanish)
- Busquets J (2005) *Barcelona. The urban evolution of a compact city*. Harvard University. Graduate School of Design.
- Hughes R (1992) *Barcelona*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY
- Gehl J, Svarre B (2013) *How To Study Public Life*. How To Study Public Life. Island Press.
- Marshall T (2004) *Transforming Barcelona*. Routledge
- McDonogh, G., S. Martínez-Rigol. 2018. *Barcelona*. Polity Press.
- Montaner JM, Álvarez F, Muxí Z, et al. (2014) *Reader modelo Barcelona 1973-2013*. Barcelona: Comanegra.
- Orwell G (1938) *Homage to Catalonia*. Penguin Books
- Rowe PG (2006) *Building Barcelona: A Second Renaissance*. Barcelona, Spain: Barcelona Regional.
- Solà-Morales M (2008) *Ten Lessons on Barcelona*. 2nd Editio. Barcelona: Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya.

Institutional Reports

- Anderson, R., S. Chin, N. Dara, D. Harlos, E. Johnson, S. Labahn, E. LaRocque, G. Lloyd, S. Lone, M. McBurnie, T. Nakao, C. Nesbitt, T. Oswald, L. Raphael, H. Shen, A. van der Veen, S. Zhou, E. Villagomez, J. Honey-Rosés. 2018. *Life in Poblenou: Observation and Exploration*. PLAN 545C: Barcelona Field Studio. School of Community of Regional Planning. University of British Columbia. 114 pages. <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/67589>
- Barcelona Institute of Technology and Ajuntament de Barcelona (2017) *Comissió Ampliada de la Comissió de Coordinació del 22@*. Barcelona.
- Comissió d'Equipaments del Poblenou (2016) *Propostes per un pla d'actuació Municipal al Poblenou (2016-2019)*.

Newspaper and Magazine Articles

- Beas D (2011) How Spain's 15-M movement is redefining politics. *The Guardian*.
- Burgen S (2017) Barcelona anti-tourism activists vandalise bikes and bus. *The Guardian*, 1 August.
- González R and Clotet J (2012) Spanish Prisoners. *The New York Times*, 2 October. Available at: <https://nyti.ms/SBF2k9>.
- Goodman P (2017) Spain's Long Economic Nightmare Is Finally Over. *The New York Times*, 28 July.
- Hancox D (2016) Is this the world's most radical mayor? *The Guardian*. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/26/ada-colau-barcelona-most-radical-mayor-in-the-world>.
- Hu W (2016) What New York Can Learn From Barcelona's 'Superblocks'. *The New York Times*, 30 September. Available at: <https://nyti.ms/2dhJ2tu>.
- Johnston-Zimmerman K (2017) Urban Planning Has a Sexism Problem. *Match News*.
- López H (2017) 'El Gòtic no quiere ser Venecia, y el Poblenou no quiere ser el Gòtic'. *El Periódico*, 3 August.
- López H (2017) Colau quiere erradicar de la ordenanza las multas por jugar a la pelota. *La Vanguardia* 31 July.
- Mas A (2013) A Referendum for Peace. *The New York Times*, 10 September. Available at: <https://nyti.ms/17O5z8M>.
- Nonko E (2017) Barcelona Bans Cars and Boosts Tech. *Dow Jones, A News Corp Company*, 1 August.
- O'Sullivan F (2017) Barcelona's Old Town Gets A Reboot. *Citylab*, 31 May.
- O'Sullivan F (2017) Barcelona's Car-Taming 'Superblocks' Meet Resistance. *The Atlantic: Citylab* Jan 20.
- Ortega M (2018) Les superilles s'estoven. *Ara*, 26 February.
- Ortega M (2017) Colau convertirà el carrer Cristóbal de Moura 'en un gran eix enjardinat'. *Ara*, 20 November.
- Picazo S (2017) McDonald's i AirBnB al Carmel. *El Crític*, 7 June. Barcelona.

- Reguly E (2017) Desperation, hopelessness mark Spain's economic pain. *The Globe and Mail*.
- Rueda S (2016) The superblock, a new urban cell for the construction of a new functional and urban model of Barcelona. (November).
- Sarri Camargo A (2017) Catalonia's time has come — and Spain needs to get out of the way. *The Washington Post*.
- Solé Altimira O and Franch S (2017) El Ayuntamiento de Barcelona no dará la licencia para el hotel de lujo de Drassanes. *El Diario*, 11 July.

Academic Research

- Cabré E and Andrés A (2017) La Borda: a case study on the implementation of cooperative housing in Catalonia. *International Journal of Housing Policy* 1247(June). Taylor & Francis: 1–21. DOI: 10.1080/19491247.2017.1331591.
- Delclòs-Alió X and Miralles-Guasch C (2018) Looking at Barcelona through Jane Jacobs's eyes: Mapping the basic conditions for urban vitality in a Mediterranean conurbation. *Land Use Policy* 75(November 2017). Elsevier: 505–517. DOI: 10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.04.026.
- García-Lamarca M (2017) Creating political subjects: collective knowledge and action to enact housing rights in Spain. *Community Development Journal*: 1–15. DOI: 10.1093/cdj/bsx025.
- Monclús F.J (2003) The Barcelona model: and an original formula? From 'reconstruction' to strategic urban projects (1979–2004). *Planning Perspectives* 18(4): 399–421. DOI: 10.1080/0266543032000117514.
- Nadal Agust M (2016) *Projectes resilents en un entorn urbà: Accions a les Superilles de l'Eixample*. Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.
- Speranza P (2016) Urban Ecological Interaction: Air, Water, Light and New Transit at the Human Scale of Barcelona's Superilles. *International Journal of Civil, Environmental, Structural, Construction and Architectural Engineering* 10(12): 1593–1603.

Films and Online Material

Vox 2016. Superblocks: How Barcelona is taking back the city from cars.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZORzsubQA_M

Alcaldesa (Ada for Mayor). 2016. Documentary Film. Directed by Pau Faus.

Rueda, Salvador 2017. Barcelona's bold move: Reclaiming streets for people. Public Lecture at UBC Robson Square.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Q47jpWteCQ>

MIT Free Course: Julien Beinart - Lecture 10: Transformations III: Vienna and Barcelona.
<https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/architecture/4-241j-theory-of-city-form-spring-2013/video-lectures/lec-10-transformations-iii-vienna-and-barcelona/>

Recommended Readings

- Busquets, Joan, *Cities and Grids: In Search of New Paradigms*
- Busquets, Joan, & Perez-Ramos, Pablo. *Barcelona: Manifold Grids and the Cerdà Plan*
- Grafton, Anthony & Rosenberg, Daniel, *Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline*
- Jacobs, Allan, *Great Streets*
- Magrinyà, Francesc & Marzá, Fernando, (2017) *Cerda: 150 Years of Modernity*

Lodging

Students will be provided lodging at the Generator Hostel Barcelona (Carrer de Còrsega, 373) in triple or quad rooms. The hostel is wonderfully located at the border of the Gracia 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 Gracia, 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. The Award is provided after all Program Fees are received by Go Global .

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*
- Incidentals*

***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 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.

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>.

Course Schedule

Pre-Trip

Tuesday mornings 9am-noon.

April 30	Course Introduction
May 7	Barcelona: Past & Present. Screening L'Alcaldesa
May 14	Methods for Studying Public Life
May 16	Methods for Studying Public Life
May 18	Field Work: Observing Public Life in Vancouver
May 21	Presentations, Logistics & what to expect
May 21	Presentations, Logistics & what to expect
May 28 – June 2.	Travel to Barcelona

Field Schedule

Sunday June 2	Welcome Dinner
Saturday June 15	Final Presentation