School of Community and Regional Planning
University of British Columbia
Course Outline

Course Number: PLAN 545c
Course Credits: 6
Course Title: Barcelona Planning Studio
Term: Summer Term 2019
Instructors: Jordi Honey-Rosés (UBC) + Zaida Muxi (ETSAB, Barcelona)
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Short Course Description
This course provides a unique opportunity for students to develop original planning and policy ideas to address real problems in the city of Barcelona. The Mediterranean city is under global pressures that are typical of highly attractive global cities, including gentrification, tourism and the contestation of public space. Students will immerse themselves in the life of the city through site visits, walking tours and original research, in order to understand the rich history of the city, its relationship to local culture, social circumstances and politics. Using a planning studio format, students will develop an original planning proposal for a local audience of policy makers, urban thinkers and city residents. The 2019 edition of the course will build from the student work last year. However unlike last year, the 2019 edition will not have an urban design focus. 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, 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 multiple 3 hour sessions and four assignments. These sessions will focus on researching and presenting background information on the city, as well as practicing the observation methods that we will use in Barcelona.

With our strong foundation, the field component of the course during the first two weeks of June 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 public life with the goal of creating an original student-led proposal or analysis. Students will present to a local audience for feedback, and our final work will be compiled into a co-authored report.

Course Overview
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 over 2000 years 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 development. 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 planning of the original roman settlement of Barcino, to the medieval streets of the Gothic Quarter, to Ildefons Cerdà’s unique Eixample grid, 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 aims to recover 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 (Picazo 2017). 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 (López 2017). 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 neighbourhood space is being converted to lucrative commercial uses that target visitors, rather than residents. Is Barcelona being transformed into a theme park, catering only to those who visit?

In response to these pressures, a 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 effective at meeting their objectives, or are they generating new tensions and imbalances?

This is just a small sampling of the complexity and contradictions of Barcelona. In this course, we are interested in confronting many difficult issues, both as they pertain to local debates, and to broader issues around the nature of the forces that shape the contemporary global city. In order to do so, we will experience Barcelona’s contrasting personalities—one focused on standard tourist destinations, and the other looking at neighbourhoods found the off-the-beaten-path, with special attention to Poblenou, where we will observe the impacts of these recent transformations. This structure will allow us to learn and test methods for recording, analyzing, and evaluating city data, but also build skills in developing planning proposals that aim to address the problems observed.

We will build on ideas and work developed by students last year (Andersen et al 2018). Continuity with last year’s work should allow us to have a head start and be able to build on previous work. We will aim to present our findings to representatives from relevant planning agencies and neighbourhood group on our last day in Barcelona. Our final report will be co-authored by all participants and faculty and deposited in the UBC online repository Circle. Furthermore the data collected, the planning proposals and our critical insights will be donated to the City in the hopes of informing future planning initiatives.

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

• Apply their skills and creativity to address real planning problems
• Propose planning interventions based on original field research
• Use methods of field observation in the public realm
• Develop interdisciplinary skills in problem solving, academic inquiry, and cultural awareness
• Synthesize and interpret observational data on public life
• Work in cross-cultural teams
• Understand the work environment and constraints of planners in an emerging global city
• Develop and present planning analysis to the decision-makers and the public
• Collaborate to develop a joint synthesis report

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 content and logistics. This time is critical to become familiar with the city, its history, evolution, and the research methods we will use on site. There are four pre-trip assignments that are designed to introduce us to Barcelona and prepare us for our field work.
Assignments
Assignment 1. Historical Context Assignment
In our first pre-trip session, we will try to appreciate what it means for a city to have 2000 years of history. In groups, you will be asked to identify the major historical events or processes that you think may have impacted the city’s evolution. The work will be divided in two teams, and we will contrast the contextual narrative generated by each of the teams.

Assignment 2. Book and Reading Reflection
In the month before we travel to Barcelona, you are asked to read one book from the list on this syllabus. This assignment asks you to reflect on the book you have selected, and to connect the ideas in the book with other readings, films, discussions or activities in the course. Your reading reflection should be posted on the Canvas website by Sunday, May 19th and we will discuss them in class on Tuesday May 21st.

Assignment 3. Observation of Public Life
This assignment will prepare us to observe public life using observational methods typically used by urban researchers. We will also aim to critique, innovate and improve upon the methods. The exercise prepares us for our research in Barcelona. The groups will be assigned to four public spaces used by the City of Vancouver in their Downtown Public Life Study, and will simultaneously collect their observational data on Saturday May 18th from 12-4pm. The teams will summarize their results in 10 minute presentations to the class on Tuesday May 21st.

Assignment 4. Site Assignment
The last assignment asks you to select and research a site of special significance in Barcelona. Prepare a 5-10 minute presentation on the history of the site and why it is important for the city of Barcelona. You will present to the group when we visit the site in person.

Sites
Arc de Triumf, Ferran Street, El Born Cultural Centre, La Pedrera, Casa Batlló, Parc Güell, Plaça Catalunya, Sagrada Familia, MACBA, Roman Walls, Bunkers del Carmel, Passeig de Gràcia, Roman Columns of Augustus, Les Plaças de Gràcia (Gràcia’s Squares).

Field Work - The field component of the course will take place during the first two weeks of June 2019. Student will explore the city and region. In interdisciplinary teams, students will observe, collect information on and analysis critical aspects of the built environment: visually recording and documenting significant sites, pertinent details, and ideas observed on location. Connecting planning solutions to site and context (cultural, historical, geographical, climatic) will be critical, as well as recognizing similarities and differences with Vancouver.

Additional Course Requirements
Students will be expected to conduct research outside of class time. Students will also be expected to be able to walk for extended periods of time.

Attendance
Regular attendance of all pre-trip sessions and field visits are mandatory. We will be learning and growing together, in a highly constrained period of time. Missing sessions is disruptive for everyone and infringes on others ability to learn and gain the most from this experience. 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.

Conduct
The travel nature of this course makes proper conduct essential for everyone’s learning experience. 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 abide by the following guidelines:

Assignments: 1. Historical Context 5%
Assignments: 2. Reading Reflection 15%
Assignments: 3. Observation of Public Life 15%
Assignments: 4. Site Presentation 5%
On-site: Investigation, Planning Proposal & Report 20%
Peer-Evaluation 20%
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
Readings will be posted to the course website on Canvas. Many readings will be from newspapers or the popular press in order to contextualize the current urban debates in Barcelona. In addition, students will be asked to read one book from the list below. Students will be expected to select their book choice on the first day of our pre-trip sessions. The books marked with o in the list below are deemed to be of exceptional quality, however depending on your interests (housing, history, gender and planning, public space) you may choose to select another from the list. Three of the books are very short (Collectiu Punt 6 2015, Gehl 2013, Whyte 1980), so reading all three would count as one. It is your responsibility to find the book in the library or purchase it at a bookstore or online.

Magrinñà, F & Marzá, F (2017) Cerdà: 150 Years of Modernity


° Highly recommended

Reports


Newspaper and Magazine Articles


Academic Research


Films and Online Material

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


Lodging

Students will stay at the Generator Hostel Barcelona (Carrer de Còrsega, 373) in four or six bed rooms. Rooms will be divided by gender and we will share only with members of our group. The hostel 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 Família, etc.).

Cost

The program fee is $2,450. 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.

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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Methods for Studying Public Life</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Barcelona: Past &amp; Present. Screening <em>L'Aldesda</em></td>
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<td>May 18 (Sat 12-4 pm)</td>
<td><em>Field Work: Observing Public Life in Vancouver</em></td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Presentations + Final Logistics</td>
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<td>May 22 – June 2</td>
<td>Travel to Barcelona</td>
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Barcelona Field Studio  
June 2–15, 2019  
School of Community and Regional Planning – University of British Columbia

Saturday June 1  Generator Hostel Check-in  
C/Còrsega 373

Sunday June 2  19:30  Welcome Dinner  
Bar Diamant (Carrer d’Astúries, 67 – Plaça del Diamant)  
Our welcome dinner will be held at a low-key sandwiches and tapas bar in the heart of the Gràcia neighbourhood, and an easy walk from the Generator Hostel.

Special Guests from Barcelona  
Josep Maria Montaner  
Former City Councillor of the City of Barcelona & Professor in the School of Architecture

Zaida Muxí  
Chief City Planner Santa Coloma Gramanet & Professor in the School of Architecture

Monday June 3  
Morning  
From the Generator Hostel, we will take the Green Subway Line (3) to Plaça Espanya. There we will board the 150 bus to the Castell de Montjuic. To travel from the Castell de Montjuic to Poblenou we will walk down the hill to Parallel and pick up the H14 bus from the Parallel-Cabanes stop to the Tanger-Llacuna stop.

Afternoon: Introductory Site Visit in Poblenou  
13:30  Lunch  
We will meet with colleagues at the Sopa Restaurant in the middle of the Superilla Poblenou on 114 Roc Boronat (Lunch €10.50). There are picnic tables and benches nearby for those who wish to bring their own lunch. We will be joined by Asier Aguiñaz, an architect from BCN Ecologia who participated in the design of the Superilla project.

16:00  Poblenou Site Visit  
We will familiarize ourselves with the neighbourhood and our study sites. We will be accompanied by Albert Valencia from the neighbourhood group Tanda Eix Pere IV; Salvador Claros, President of the Neighbourhood Association of Poblenou; and Clara Montaner, an environmental urban planner.  
a) Superblock Poblenou  
b) Pere IV  
c) Rambla del Poblenou  
d) Plaça de Bogatell

Tuesday June 4  
Morning: Barri Gòtic – The Old City – Barri Gòtic  
8:00  Breakfast at Generator  
If we want to walk down Passeig de Gràcia we should leave the hostel by 8:20, it is a 30 minute walk to our starting point. Alternatively, we can take the 45 Bus that leaves C/Bruc in front of the hostel (15 min).

9:00 – 11:00  Gothic Quarters Walking Tour  
Roman Columns of Augustus (Site Team Description), Plaça Sant Jaume, Plaça Felip Neri, Jewish Quarter, Plaça Nova, C/Bany Nous, C/Ferran, Plaza Reial, Plaça George Orwell, Centre Civic Gòtic, Roman Walls.

12:00 – 16:00  Site Visit in Teams (#1 – Midday and Early Afternoon)
Wednesday June 5

6:45 Early Breakfast
7:00 Leave Generator Hostel
8:00 - 12:00 Site Visit in Teams (#2 - Morning)
   Take Yellow Line Metro from Verdaguer to Llacuna or Poblenou
   Leave Generator Hostel by 7 am to be at your site by 8 am.
12:00 - 16:00 Free Time
17:00 Walking Tour: Born
   Meet beneath the Arc de Triompf.
   Dr. Isabelle Anguelovski (U. Barcelona) and Blanca Valdivia (Collectiu Punt 6)
   will lead the visit of several sites in the Born District.

Thursday June 6

8:00 Breakfast at Generator
   Walk down Passeig de Gràcia (Site Team Description).
9:30 - 12:00 Walking Tour: El Raval
   Plaça Catalunya, Las Ramblas (Site Team Description), C/Tallers, Plaça Vicene
   Martorell, MABA-CCCB (Site Team Description), Plaça dels Angles, Hospital de
   la Santa Creu, Rambla del Raval, Sant Pau del Camp, Hotel Drassanes, Drassanes.
12:00 - 16:00 Free Time
16:00 - 18:30 Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat (City History Museum)
20:00 - 24:00 Site Visit #3 (Late Evening)

Friday June 7

Barcelona Modernista
10:00 – 12:30 Park Güell
13:30 – 15:30 Free Time
16:00 – 20:00 Site Visit #4 (Afternoon)

Saturday June 8

Free Time

Sunday June 9

Free Time

Monday June 10

Morning
9:00 – 11:00 Work Session – Charette
11:00 – 13:00 Group presentations

Afternoon
17:00 Sagrada Familia
Tuesday June 11

Morning
10:00 – 13:00

Afternoon
Work Session

15:00 – 17:00
Preliminary Presentation & Feedback

Josep Maria Montaner
City Councillor & Prof in the Barcelona School of Architecture

Zaida Muxi
Chief Planner Santa Coloma Gramanet & Professor in the Barcelona School of Architecture

Evening
Sunset from Bunkers del Carmel

Built during the Spanish Civil War (1937), the bunkers were part of an anti-craft battery to defend against attacks from the fascists. Until recently, the site was abandoned, and known only to locals. Planners and historians collaborated to redesign the space and build historical memory of the Civil War. The project has won numerous awards including the 2012 Public Space Award. Sunset: 9:25 pm. We will take the 24 bus and then walk up the hill. Meet at the hostel lobby at 8:00 pm. We will be joined by the Planning Studio Team of Masters Students led by Prof. Jeremy Nemeth from the University of Colorado.

Wednesday June 12

Morning
Work Session

Afternoon
TBD Activity

Thursday June 13

Morning
Work Session

Afternoon
TBD Activity

Friday June 14

Final Presentation

18:30
Final Presentation
Biblioteca Poblenou M. Arranz - Can Saladrigas

Invited Critics

- Asier Aguilar, BCN Ecologia
- Roser Casanovas, Col·lectiu Punt 6

21:00
Celebration Dinner
Sa Tramuntana, 225 C/Dl Trueta, Poblenou

Saturday June 15

11:00 – 13:00
Debrief, reflections, data sharing and peer evaluations

Sunday June 16

Hostel Generator check-out