
AH/US360 THE CITY AS A PLACE TO LIVE: THE BARCELONA EXPERIENCE
IES Barcelona Syllabus – Last updated: April 24th, 2008

DESCRIPTION: To live our city means to expand the limits of our homes. To understand this concept we will study public spaces and the importance of their form and qualities to help us feel as one with the city. The course will focus on the characteristics of different public spaces and the activities that take place in them. Throughout the study in time of public spaces in both Europe and America we will distinguish the advantages of each. Barcelona will serve as case of study for the European perspective. (3 credits)

INSTRUCTOR: Isabel Sánchez

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Class **lectures** will be with visual support accordingly with session's contents.
- Students will be asked to do **short presentations** based on the course readings. After mid term, **quizzes or take home exams** will take place.
- **Field studies;** guided visits to significant sites related to the content of the course. Each student must do a Field journal relating the four field study visit.
- **Homework;** Students will do several practical exercises to verified their's capacity of observation in different issues of Barcelona's cityscape, environmental qualities and city life.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: Class participation (15%); homework (15%); field journal (20%); mid-term exam (25%); final project (25%)

IES ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. Students are permitted 3 absences in IES area studies courses and 5 absences in IES Spanish language courses with no impact on the final grade. These include absences due to illness, delayed flights, interviews, family celebrations, or any other personal commitments. Beyond these absences, one half of a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence. If a student is absent more than 7 times for area studies courses or 10 times for language courses, the student will receive an F for the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the course, students are able to:

- Recognize the more relevant urban features of both European (with Barcelona as specific case) and American contexts.
- Distinguish the historical layers in both European and American urban form process.
- Increase their understanding of cities as urban/public places and the way people live in them.
- Understand layouts and maps so that, they manage to orient themselves in a new building or city.

CONTENT:

Session 1: General overview of the course. The idea of public realm.

Required readings: none

Session 2: Establishing a common language, with the detailed review of Urban and Architectural Design concepts. The city in drawings

Required readings: Crowhurst, Lennard, Suzanne. *Making cities livable*. The public Realm and the good city, pp. 79-83

Session 3: The compact city, mixed uses and well defined public places, squares, streets, boulevards, waterfronts as centers of community life.

Required readings:

IES is compliant with international and US copyright laws. It obtains permission from publishers to reproduce materials in electronic format or in course readers. Please, note that the copyright for this syllabus is retained both by the instructor and IES Barcelona.

Crowhurst, Lennard, Suzanne. *Making cities livable*. Seven aims for the livable City, pp. 18-20.

Session 4: **Field Study I**: Urban public spaces in Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, visiting some of the mayor public places; The Ramblas, Squares as San Jaume, Plaza Real, Plaza St Felipe Neri among others
Required readings: None

Session 5: Urban form through time, in Europe I
Urban morphology in early cities. Greece. Rome. Colonial city's layout in the Roman World. El Barcino, Barcelona.
Required readings: Vasquez, Montalban Manuel. *Barcelonas*, Chapter Sunken Cities.

Session 6: Urban form through time, in Europe II
The medieval Urban form. The gothic city. Medieval and Gothic urban form and its legacy in Barcelona city shape.
Required readings: Morris, A.E.J. *History of Urban Form*. Chapter 5. Kostof, *The city shaped*, pp. 29-37.

Session 7: Urban form through time, in Europe III
The urban form in the European Renaissance. France and the Royal Places. London Residential Square
Required readings: Morris, A.E.J., *History of Urban Form*. Chapter 8

Session 8: **Field study II**: The Eixample. The new shape of Barcelona extension, and its emblematic urban form. A hundred years of the Cerdà's Plan.
Required readings: none

Session 9: Urban form through time, in Europe VI
19th century reforms and expansions of the cities. Baron Haussman's Paris plan of transformations. The City in the Industrial Age. The Cerdà legacy.
Required readings: Frampton, K *Modern architecture*, pp 20-28

Session 10: Urban form through time, in Europe V The Modern's City. Le Corbusier. The Plan Voisin. CIAM. Car's boom and zoning. Leo Krier. A critical perspective of Modern movement ideas.
Required readings: William J. R. Curtis, *Le Corbusier*, pp. 7-8, pp 60-66.

Session 11: **Midterm exam**
Required readings: None

Session 12: **The Barcelona experience**. Making your way in the city, navigating Barcelona through the different historical times and layouts. Barcelona's memorable places
Required readings: Lynch. *City sense and City design*, pp. 468-475

Session 13: Urban form through time, in America I
Architectural and urban heritage in America, first cities and its urban form. The grids in america.
Required readings: Repts. *Making Urban America*. pp 26-32; Kostof, *City Shaped*. pp. 124-126

Session 14: **Field study III** : The Barceloneta. The Waterfront. The Old Port and the Olympic Port. Past and present. 1992
Olympic games. The seaside landscape, shaping a long chain of beaches.
Required readings: None

Session 15: Urban form through time, in America II. The evolution of urban morphology from the foundations through 19th century.
Required readings: Repts. *Making Urban America*, pp. 1 -19; Piazza, pp. 19-24; 263-272.

Session 16: Urban form through time, in America III. 20th century. Impact of modern movement ideas in USA. Zoning consequences in the American City.

Required readings: Mumford. *After CIAM*, pp. 267-274

Session 17: General discussion on Fall break visited cities. Student will organized themselves in teams by cities, and after answering several questions among them, we will do an open discussion

Required readings: None

Session 18: Urban form through time, in America IV, CIAM's legacy in American cities. Recent year's developments.

Required readings: Kostof, pp. 239-243.

Session 19: Conflicts and coexistence of urban forms, in European and American cities. Barcelona study case.

Required readings: Kostof. *The City Assembled*, pp. 275- 279

Session 20: Debate on European American Public places versus American Public places. Barcelona urban places Project. What on a travel guide?

Required readings: None

Session 21: Public places in European cities versus Public places in American cities. Actual conditions of urban places in both situations.

Required readings: Kostof. *The City Assembled*. pp.172- 187

Session 22: The Forum. Barcelona latest urban proposal. A world event. Avenue Diagonal and Maritime front. New high rise buildings, malls and parks in a huge real state operation

Required readings: none

Session 23: Barcelona and its lessons on enjoyable places: Image and form, connective net, comfort, activities and sociability.

Required readings: none

Session 24: Final project due. Conclusions and final comments.

Required readings: none

Final Exam

REQUIRED READIN:

Curtis, William J.R (1986). Le Corbusier. *Ideas and Forms*. Rizzoli, New York.

Crowhurst Lennard. Suzane H. (1997). Making cities livable. Architecture, Place, Community, Neighborhood, Identity, Planning and Values. Lennard&Crowhurst Editors, Carmel, USA

Frampton, Kenneth (1980). *Modern Architecture a critical history*. Thames and Hudson Ltd, London, England.

Kostof, Spiro (1991). *The City Shaped*, Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History. Boston, Bulfinch Press, USA

Kostof, Spiro (1992). Greg Castillo, Richard Tobias. *The City Assembled : The Elements of Urban Form Through History*. Boston, Bulfinch Press, USA

Lynch, Kevin (1991). *City Sense and City Design*. Writings and projects. The MIT Press, Cambridge. Massachusetts. USA

Mumford, Eric. (2000). *The CIAM discourse on urbanism 1928-1960*. Cambridge MIT Press. USA

Reps, John W. (1965). *The making of Urban America*. History of city planning in the United States. Princeton University Press, US
Vazquez Montaban, Manuel (1992) *Barcelonas*, Published by Verso, London, England

RECOMMENDED READING:

Crowhurst Lennard. Suzane H. *The wisdom of cities*. Architecture, Place, Community, Neighborhood, Identity, Planning and Values. Lennard&Crowhurst Editors, Carmel, USA
Jacobs, Jane (1993). *Downtown is for People*. Berkeley, University of California Press, USA
Krier, Leon (1978). *Rational - Architecture / Rationnelle*. Archives d'Architecture Moderne. Brussels, 1978. (Bilingual French/English text). Belgium
Lynch, Kevin (1960). *The Image of the City*. MIT Press, Cambridge, A Theory of good city form. The MIT Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts-London.
Sherwood, Roger (1979). *Modern Housing Prototypes*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London. England.