DRAFT SYLLABUS: HOUSING & URBANISM IN BARCELONA
UC DAVIS SUMMER ABROAD 2015

July 5, 2015 – August 1, 2015

CRD 153B (4 units) + CRD 198 (4 units) or LDA 191 (5 units) + LDA 198 (3 units)

Instructors:
Robert Wiener, PhD, Community & Regional Development, University of California, Davis
rob@calruralhousing.org
David de la Peña, PhD, Landscape Arch. & Env. Design, University of California, Davis
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On-site Coordinator:
Carles Baiges Comprubí, LaCol (Architects Co-operative), Barcelona
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
Barcelona is hailed as a model of best practices for contemporary urbanism and innovative approaches to affordable housing and neighborhood regeneration. This program examines the relationship between urbanism, housing, and community development—looking at the city’s urban history, its planning models, housing policies, and redevelopment plans for low-income, working-class, and immigrant neighborhoods, as well as emerging grassroots approaches. This is a unique opportunity to learn about a world-class city while experiencing its vital public spaces, architecture, cultural diversity, and its contradictions. Through daily field trips, lectures, and design projects, students will learn, synthesize, and apply their knowledge to actual public spaces and communities in this dynamic urban laboratory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completing this course, students will be able to:
• summarize the history of urbanism in Barcelona
• appraise and critique the “Barcelona Model” of planning
• contrast housing policies and programs in the US and Spain
• discuss the dynamics of youth, immigrants, and the economic crisis in Spain
• describe the role of neighborhood associations in community development
• evaluate grassroots initiatives to create and change local public spaces

COURSE FORMAT
This course will be taught in English. Knowledge of Spanish is very helpful but not required. The course will progress through four weekly themes. In Week 1, we cover the history of urbanism in Barcelona; in Week 2, we focus on housing policy, demographics and economics; in Week 3, we delve into case studies that explore the topics of housing and participatory urbanism. Finally, in Week 4, students work in teams of 5-6 to investigate a specific project, conducting interviews of professionals and residents, using visual observation, mapping, and finding reference materials.
Each group will have a Spanish speaker. Groups will make a 60-minute Group Presentation to the entire class and invited guests on the final day of class explaining their findings.

Students will also keep a Daily Journal to record their experiences, learning, and personal reactions to the course. Journal entries will include written and visual records. Instructions for the journals will be given in class. Journals will be collected at the end of the third week.

Students will submit a five-page Retrospective Paper responding to a critical issue or project covered in the course. Papers should describe the issue, its meaning, and how it might be brought to bear on similar issues in the US.

On weekends, optional field trips within our outside of Barcelona may be offered depending on group interest.

**READINGS**
Required readings will be drawn primarily from the Course Reader, which will be provided to students prior to departure for Barcelona. Students will also benefit from reading the following Optional Texts about Barcelona prior to arrival:


Busquets, Joan (2005). *Barcelona: the urban evolution of a compact city.* Rovereto, Cambridge, MA: Nicolodi, Harvard University Graduate School of Design. *This large volume describes the overall transformation of the city from an urbanist and architect perspective; though somewhat self-congratulatory, it is a useful reference. Available at the UCD Shields Library.*

Marshall, Tim, ed. (2004) *Transforming Barcelona: the Renewal of a European Metropolis.* London, New York: Routledge. *This critical edited volume explains why Barcelona’s urban model has been so successful; it is written from a British viewpoint to an audience keen on replicating the city’s success. Several essays, however, offer important critique of the Barcelona Model.*

From time to time, additional handouts may be passed out in class. These supplemental readings and resources will help explain and expand on the scholarly and professional works in the reader and optional texts. Readings are an essential part of this course and must be completed by the date listed.

**PRE-REQUISITES**
See course catalogue; may be waived with consent of instructor

**EVALUATION / GRADING**
All students will be evaluated based on the following four products:

| 1) | Journal / Sketchbook (20%) | Due: July 24, 7pm |
2) Group Presentation (40%) Due: July 31, 5pm
3) Retrospective Paper (15%) Due: August 1, 5pm by email
3) Attendance and Participation (25%) Track One: Community & Regional Development

CRD 153B, *International Community Development: Europe*, is a 4-unit, graded course. Students, however, may elect to use a *Pass/No Pass* option with notification to the instructors no later than July 1, 2011.

CRD 198, *Directed Group Studies*, is a 4-unit, independent study course and will be graded on a mandatory *Pass/No Pass* basis. Students will be evaluated based on submission of a *Retrospective Paper* of five pages in length, double-spaced. (approx. 1200 words) The *Retrospective Paper* will be due on Saturday, **August 1, by 5:00 pm**. Please email to Rob Wiener at rob@calruralhousing.org.

Track Two: Landscape Architecture & Environmental Design

LDA 191, *Landscape Architecture, Planning & Design Studio*, is a 5-unit graded course. Normally, this course has prerequisites of LDA 1, 70, and 170. Enrollment for this summer course however is open. Students in the LDA major at UC Davis who have not completed the prerequisites should request consent from the instructor prior to departure. Students will be evaluated based on the same criteria as with CRD 153B above, with emphasis placed upon the design and planning implications of the themes of housing and urbanism.

LDA 198, *Directed Group Studies*, is a 3-unit independent study course and will be graded on a *Pass/No Pass* basis. Students will be evaluated based on submission of a *Retrospective Paper* of five pages in length, (approx. 1200 words) The *Retrospective Paper* will be due on Saturday, **August 1, by 5:00 pm**. Please email to Rob Wiener at rob@calruralhousing.org.

GROUP PROJECTS
On the final day of the course, students working in groups of 5-6 will formally present research that they have conducted on one of five projects that we have covered in class. Presentations will be made to the class and to invited guests, including representatives from the City, professionals, and neighborhood groups. Students will be assigned groups during the first week of class, based on student preference and availability. One Spanish-speaking student will be in each group to ease communication with local representatives. The five projects are described below.

1. **Pla Buits** – This is a city sponsored project to temporarily reactivate unused vacant parcels in the city by soliciting proposals from local neighborhood groups.
2. **La Mina** – A large public housing revitalization on the edge of a new development near the coast. This project addresses the topics of citizen participation, ethnicity, and gentrification.
3. **Tres Turons** – A city-initiated project to transform three of the hills within the urban area from informal housing sites into public parks. Now stalled out, the project offers a glimpse into issues of land rights and public benefits.
4. **Can Masdeu** – Located along the northwestern edge of the city along the Collserola mountain range, this formerly abandoned hospital has been appropriated by squatters, who now operate a community center, intentional housing community, and permaculture farm.

5. **Can Batlló** – This former factory complex has been the site of neighborhood conflict over development for decades, and is now an experiment in self-managed and self-built community space.

For these projects, the research should go beyond what was covered in class, adding context, history, pertinent details, and first-hand observations or interviews. Students should take a critical perspective, evaluating the project’s successes, challenges, limitations, and its relevance beyond the project itself. Presentations should be made in a professional manner and should include visual aids (ie powerpoint, slideshows, video, etc). Students must also provide a handout (and digital pdf) to audience members with summary information such as maps, statistics, dates, and references. The final week of class will be dedicated to completing these projects, and groups will work on their own schedules to complete the work, with scheduled consultations by the instructor.
DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

July 5 - Orientation and Course Description
Time: 18:00-20:00   Location: Centro Cívico Barceloneta
Time: 20:30-      Location: Group Dinner, Siempre Viva Restaurant

Instructors: Rob Wiener, UC Davis; David de la Peña, UC Davis; Carles Baiges, LaCol

Welcome and introductions! Discussion of course purpose, requirements, and logistics, common-sense tips for living and getting around in Barcelona, and cultural differences.

Readings:
- Summer Program Guide

WEEK ONE: HISTORY OF BARCELONA’S URBAN GROWTH

Barcelona has become world-renowned, especially since the 1992 Summer Olympics, for the regeneration of its lower-income neighborhoods and transformation from a manufacturing base to a world-class tourism and high-tech magnet. But well before that, the city and region were leaders in creative thinking and implementation of urban planning principles. We will discuss urban and metropolitan planning in Barcelona and the region, past, present, and future.

Monday July 6 – Pre-industrial Barcelona
Time: 13:00-15:30   Location: Excursion, Cable Car to Montjuic
Time: 16:00-18:00   Location: Lecture, CSIC, Raval
Time: 18:00-20:00   Location: Walking Tour, Barri Gotic

Antoni Luna, Pompeu Fabra University

Early-afternoon cable car to Montjuic Olympic mountain. Late-afternoon lecture on the early history of Barcelona and the pressure to move out of the old city walls. Industrialization and class conflict. Walking tour of the Raval, and the Barri Gotic – Old City.

Readings:
- Colm Tóibín. 2002. Homage to Barcelona, Ch. 2, p. 11-23
Tuesday July 7 – Cerdà’s Extension (Eixample) & Modernisme

Time: 9:00-10:30         Location: Lecture, CSIC, Raval
Time: 11:00-12:00        Location: Walking Tour of Eixample
Time: 12:30-13:30        Location: Casa Milà (La Pedrera) by Gaudí

_Kerstin Burckhart, former, Institut d'Estudis Territorials_

The growth of the new city from the 1800s to the Franco period, the _modernisme_ movement in architecture, and the impacts of immigration, speculation, and densification. Walking tour of Eixample, visiting Casa Milá (La Pedrera) and Gaudi’s Parc Güell.

**Readings:**

Wednesday July 8 – Urbanism & Housing under Franco’s Dictatorship

Time: 14:00-15:30        Location: Museu d’Història de la Ciutat (MUHBA)
Time: 16:00-18:00        Location: Lecture, CSIC, Raval
Time: 18:00-20:00        Location: Walking Tour, Franco-Era Housing, Poble Nou

_Toni Luna, Pompeu Fabra University_

Planning during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco, 1939 to 1975; use of planning, community development, and housing policy as a tool of central government control from Madrid; suppression of Catalanism. Walking tour of a Franco-era neighborhood, visit to Museum of the History of the City.

**Readings:**

Thursday July 9 – The Democratic Transition, Olympics, & the Barcelona Model

Time: 9:00-11:00         Location: Lecture, Centro Civico Barceloneta
Time: 11:00-12:30        Location: Walking Tour, Olympic Village
Time: 13:30-15:00        Location: Excursion, Boat Ride to Forum 2004 Site; Return by Trolley
Time: 21:00             Location: Group Dinner, Location TBA

_Amador Ferrer, former Planning Director, City of Badalona_
_Josep-Maria Montaner & Zaida Muxí, ETSAB_

The post-Franco period from the 1970s to the 1990s: the Movimientos de Vecinos (Movements of Neighbors), 1975 Metropolitan Plan, the 1992 Summer Olympics, public spaces and regeneration

**Readings:**

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**Friday, July 10 – Contemporary & Future Barcelona**

**Time:** 8:30-11:00  
**Location:** Meet at RESA, walk to Travelbound to rent bikes

**Time:** 11:00-13:00  
**Location:** 22@ Office

*Marc Sans, Barcelona Activa*

The goals and impacts of post-Olympic projects, especially the 22@ and AVE high-speed rail system, to transform Barcelona into an information technology center, transportation hub, and world city. Bike ride on coastal litoral to Plaza Glories area and 22@ Office.

**Readings:**

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**WEEK TWO: TOPICAL ISSUES IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Nationwide, Spain has made remarkable strides in housing policy and programs over the last several decades, achieving the highest homeownership rate in Europe. However, huge growth in population and prosperity in cities like Barcelona and its metropolitan area have had profound impacts on the demographics of the region, the supply of affordable housing, and the character of existing neighborhoods. Recently, the worldwide economic downturn has slowed the pace of development. These trends raise profound questions about where young people will live, how new immigrants will be integrated, and how change will be managed.

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**Monday July 13 – Housing from Catalonia to California**

**Time:** 10:00-11:30  
**Location:** Excursion, Casa Bloc

**Time:** 16:00-18:00  
**Location:** University of Barcelona

**Time:** 21:00-  
**Location:** Group Dinner, Location to TBA

*Carles Baiges Camprubí, University of Amsterdam*
Montserrat Pareja-Eastaway, University of Barcelona
Joaquim Clusa, Mur & Clusa Associates
Rob Wiener, University of California, Davis; California Coalition for Rural Housing

In a comparative framework, housing trends, problems, and strategies at the national, regional, and local levels in Catalonia and California, Spain and the U.S. Excursion to Casa Bloc Museum, an example of Rationalist public housing built prior to the Franco dictatorship.

Readings:

Tuesday, July 14 – Regeneration, Gentrification, and Engagement
Time: 9:00-13:00  
Location: Municipality of Santa Coloma de Gramenet

Jesus de la Varga Garcia, Barcelones County Council

Discussion of the important role of neighborhood associations in planning and decision-making for housing, community development, and services in a municipality contiguous to Barcelona.

Readings:

Wednesday, July 15 – Foreclosure Crisis and Evictions
Time: 10:00-12:30  
Location: PAH office, C\Leiva, 44, Barcelona

Representative from Personas Afectadas por la Hipoteca, People affected by Mortgages (PAH)

Discussion of the huge impacts of the foreclosure crisis in Barcelona and grassroots efforts to fight back. Movie highlighting the foreclosure struggle. Comparisons to and contrasts with the foreclosure crisis in California and the U.S.

Readings:
- Katharine Ainger. 2013. “In Spain they are all indignados nowadays,” in The Guardian, April 28
Thursday, July 16 – Demographic Shifts, Immigrant Experiences

Time: 10:00-12:30  Location: Tour of El Born Neighborhood and Catalonia Parliament
Time: 16:00-17:00  Location: Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona
Time: 18:00-20:30 Location: Lecture and Panel Discussion, CSIC, Raval
Time: 21:00-           Location: Group Dinner, Location in Raval TBA

Daniel de Torres Barderi, Pompeu Fabra University

The demographic characteristics, housing conditions, and integration of immigrants in Barcelona. Discussion with representatives from immigrant groups. We will also receive guided tours of the Born District, Catalan Parliament, and a special exhibition about housing at the Contemporary Culture Center of Barcelona.

Readings:

Day 10 – Friday, July 17 – Rural Housing, Farm Workers

Time: 8:00-18:00  Location: Codorniu Winery/Sitges

We will receive a private tour of the internationally known Codorniu Winery – famous for its sparkling wine – located in the wine-producing Penedes Region outside Barcelona. We will also journey to the beach in the coastal village of Sitges before returning to Barcelona.

Readings:

WEEK THREE - CASE STUDIES

Barcelona’s democratic transition of the 1970s and 80s was ushered in by the growing strength of neighborhood associations. As neighborhood leaders assumed positions of power within the city administration, these associations (Asociaciones de Vecinos, AAVVs) receded from political power, allowing technically capable urban designers and engineers to design and plan the city’s public spaces. Barcelona’s neighborhood associations and other community-based organizations have regained influence in the wake of failures of urbanism (Forum 2004, reform of the Diagonal
highway) and the economic collapse of the past decade. We will visit five project areas during week 3, which will become the focus of small-group class projects in Week 4.

**Monday, July 20 – Citizen Participation, Case Study: Pla Buits**

**Time:** 9:00-13:00  
**Location:** Urbanisme Office & Pla Buits sites

**Time:** 18:00-20:00  
**Location:** Raons Publiques Office, Poble Sec neighborhood

*Laia Torras, Director of Participation for Habitat Urba (Housing and Urbanism), City of Barcelona; Carles Baiges, LaCol Architects Collective; Representative(s) from Raons Públiques Urbanism Cooperative*

In 2011, a new city administration, facing the prospect of slow growth and hundreds of vacant parcels of land, initiated a project to involve communities in the development of temporary uses for empty places (Pla Buits). We will hear from the urbanism department's director of participation, touring some of the Pla Buits sites. In the evening we will meet with a community-based urbanism collective and then visit the ongoing annual neighborhood festival, Festa Major del Poble Sec.

**Readings:**
- Carles Baiges Camprubí. 2014. “Can official planning include ‘tactical urbanism’?”
- [http://www.bcn.cat/habitaturba/plabuits](http://www.bcn.cat/habitaturba/plabuits)

**Tuesday, July 21 – Public Housing & Immigrants, Case Study: La Mina**

**Time:** 9:00-13:00  
**Location:** Centre Civic Besos

**Time:** 16:00-18:00  
**Location:** CCCB Exhibit, “Pilot Apartment: Medellin - Barcelona”

*Montserrat Luesma i Maymo, Consorci de la Mina*

A look at efforts to reconstruct a large housing estate and rehouse the residents of La Mina, one of the poorest and most diverse neighborhoods in Barcelona. Adjacent to the 2004 Forum, the site has been subjected to gentrifying influences, while also maintaining its own innovative programs for community development.

**Readings:**

**Wednesday, July 22 – Housing and Open Space Planning, Case Study: Tres Turons**
Sara Udina, Barcelona Urbanisme

A look at regeneration and development plans in the neighborhoods of Tres Turons and El Carmel. The Tres Turons (Three Hills) have long been an urban project for city planners who have sought to provide more open space within the city. The project has aimed to connect the hills as a connected green space; however, the hillsides have also long been the site of self-built housing. We will explore the complexity of this situation and prospects for the future of these hilly neighborhoods.

Readings:
- R. Balanzo-Joue and A. Borras. 2009. “Listening to the Inhabitants of our Cities for Urban Landscape in the Mediterranean Context, Case Study: Tres Turons Project in Barcelona,” in proceedings, City Futures Conference, June 4-6

Thursday, July 23 – Squatting and Permaculture, Case Study: Can Masdeu
Time: 9:00-13:00   Location: Can Masdeu Social Center
Time: 21:00   Location: Dinner at Pepa Tomate, Gracia neighborhood

Javier Monellano and Alessandro Ardovini, Can Masdeu

The squatting movement in Europe is especially prevalent in the Netherlands and Spain. In Barcelona, squats (Okupas) have a long and conflictual history; in Madrid many were integral to the 15M movement of indignant youth that swept the country in 2011 and continues to influence national politics. Can Masdeu is one of the largest CSOs (Occupied, Self-managed Social Centers) in Barcelona, in operation for over a decade with broad support from the local residents and other community groups. It offers social services, educational programs, community gardens, while also running a farm and ecological restaurant based on permaculture principles.

Readings:

Friday, July 24 – Self-managed Community, Case Study: Can Batlló
Time: 9:00-13:00   Location: Can Batlló Bloc 11 Community Center
This 40 acre site was formerly a textile factory, source of wealth for the Batlló family (Gaudí’s famous patrons). During the dictatorship, the property fell into the hands of an industrialist, whose heirs currently own most of the property and have been attempting to develop much of it for profitable luxury housing. The remainder of the site has been promised by city administrations for city amenities: a park, school, sports facilities, library, medical facilities, etc. Fed up with waiting, community members began an aggressive campaign to claim the site, working with the architects of LaCol (then still students) to propose new uses. With access granted in 2011, the site has been an experiment in DIY community building.

Readings:

Journals Due at 7:00 pm.

WEEK FOUR: SMALL GROUP PROJECTS

Working in five small groups, students will spend most of the week will be assigned to local agencies and projects introduced in Week 3 where they will research housing and community development needs, plans, and solutions. The week will culminate in presentations of findings before the entire class.

Monday, July 27 - Small Group Project Orientations
Time: 9:00-13:00         Location: Project Areas
Students will begin their small-group research by meeting with project-area professional staff for purpose of further orientation and returning to the neighborhoods for initial observation and investigation.

Small-Group Fieldwork

Time: 9:00-13:00         Location: Project Development Offices/Areas
Pla Buits, Laia Torras
La Mina, contact tbd
Tres Turons, Sara Udina
Can Masdeu, Javi Montellano
Can Batllo, Arnau Andrés

Time: 21:00         Location: Dinner location tbd
Tuesday, July 28 - Small Group Fieldwork

Reviews of local plans, interviews with professionals and residents, and participant observation.

Student Consultations (if needed)

**Time:** 19:00-20:00  
**Location:** RESA Campus del Mar

David de la Peña, University of California, Davis  
Carles Baiges, LaCol

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Wednesday, July 29 - Small Group Fieldwork

Reviews of local plans, interviews with professionals and residents, and participant observation.

Student Consultations (if needed)

**Time:** 19:00-20:00  
**Location:** RESA Campus del Mar

David de la Peña, University of California, Davis  
Carles Baiges, LaCol

**Time:** 21:00  
**Location:** Dinner location tbd

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Thursday, July 30 - Small Group Fieldwork and Preparation of Presentations

Reviews of local plans, interviews with professionals and residents, and participant observation.

Student Consultations (if needed)

**Time:** 19:00-20:00  
**Location:** RESA Campus del Mar

David de la Peña, University of California, Davis  
Carles Baiges, LaCol

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Friday, July 31 - Small Group Presentations

**Time:** 9:00pm-3:30pm  
**Location:** Residencia de Investigadores

**Group 1:** 9:00-10:00  
**Group 2:** 10:00-11:00  
**Group 3:** 11:00-12:00  
**Group 4:** 12:30-13:30  
**Group 5:** 13:30-14:30

**Group Discussion and Wrap-Up:** 14:30pm-15:30pm
Final Dinner Party

Time: 7:00pm-10:00pm  Location: Restaurant TBA

July 31 Retrospective Papers Due by Email at 5:00 pm
Mail to rob@calruralhousing.org