URBAN PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE: BARCELONA PERSPECTIVE

Professor Francesc Muñoz

Course description
This subject covers main issues in urban history, architecture and planning focusing on the main challenges for urban design at the present moment and presenting the city of Barcelona as a particular case study. Main discussions on urban economy, society, ecology and culture are introduced and illustrated with specific readings. The contents focus on the process of urban change that has transformed cities and urban spaces since the last third of the 20th century.

Issues such as gentrification, urban sprawl, urban regeneration and urban design in public urban spaces are considered using the city of Barcelona as an urban laboratory to observe in detail and understand the complexity of these dynamics. Finally, the analysis of the role and implications of urban public spaces critically show both the goals of urban planning and the real social use of space that define cities and urban life at the present moment.

Prerequisites
This is an introductory course therefore there are no pre-requisites.

Class format
The class meets during 10 sessions based on a program of lectures, slides and site visits. For each class, students will be responsible for a reading assignment that will be necessary for class participation and which will then be discussed in class.

Form of assessment
- Individual presentations and group discussions on the readings: 20% of the final grade.
- Urban trekking (fieldtrip plus exercise): 20% of the final grade.
- Final project (research essay on the basis of the work with some real public spaces in Barcelona): 60% of the final grade