

Call for Proposals: Global Urban Humanities Initiative GRADUATE Course on a Global City/Urban Life

**Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Studio Courses for 2018, 2019 and 2020
Proposals due April 10, 2017 and October 1, 2017**

Introduction

The Global Urban Humanities Initiative (GUH) studies cities by bringing together the arts and humanities, the interpretive social sciences, and the environmental design disciplines. GUH experiments with cross-disciplinary forms of pedagogy and research through the creation of team-taught courses. Each year GUH sponsors international research travel by faculty and graduate students to investigate urban form and experience.

GUH invites interdisciplinary two-person faculty teams to submit proposals for a graduate research studio course on cities that will combine approaches from the arts and humanities and the environmental design disciplines.

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Studio is the centerpiece of a new Graduate Certificate in Global Urban Humanities and should reflect the goals and approaches of the Initiative. Background is available at globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu.

Summary:

Information session: March 24, 11 am, BCNM Commons, 340 Moffitt; RSVP Required

Deadline: April 10, 2017 for Spring 2018 grant

October 1, 2017 for Spring 2019 and Spring 2020 grants

Funding: \$45,000 each year for travel and materials, GSI support, \$5,000 summer salary,
Limited course relief

Eligibility: Teams including 1 faculty from CED and 1 from A&H (or interpretive social sciences)

Geography: Anywhere outside US

Post-course deliverables: Catalog/exhibition, course report

Support Provided

The Initiative will provide funding for international travel for the two faculty and up to 16 students for approximately 10 days during spring break. The budget for travel and production of a catalog or other work product is \$40,000. GUH will also provide funding for a GSR, \$3,000 for materials, \$2,000 for guest speakers and summer salary of up to \$5,000 each for the two faculty

members to support course preparation. If a faculty member is not able to teach the course as part of their regular courseload and a replacement must be hired, course replacement funds of \$13,500 will be available to one of the two departments participating in the course.

Eligibility and Selection Process

Proposals must be made by teams of two, including one faculty member from the Arts & Humanities Division or the interpretive social sciences, and one from the College of Environmental Design. Preference will generally go to ladder-rank faculty. The grant awards will be decided by Jennifer Wolch, Dean of the College of Environmental Design and Anthony J. Cascardi, Dean of the Arts and Humanities Division, based on the quality and innovation of the proposal, its alignment with the goals and methods of GUH, and the relevant experience of the proposers.

Schedule

We are seeking proposals for Spring 2018, Spring 2019 and Spring 2020 for any geographic region. Each year we will support a different team on a different topic. If you are flexible on the year you would teach the course, please indicate which years in your application. Applications for the Spring 2018 course are due April 1, 2017. Decisions will be made by the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Applications for the Spring 2018 and 2019 courses are due October 1, 2017. Decisions on the Spring 2019 course will be made by the end of the Fall 2017 semester; decisions on the Spring 2020 course may be made at a later date.

Focus of Study

GUH courses study urban form and urban experience. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Studio might address the history of a city through non-traditional research methods; the nature of performance in urban space; the relationship of design and politics; the functioning of public space; the ways that literature or music shed light on cities; issues of race, gender, disability, etc. The key is that the methods of research and representation used should come both from the arts and humanities (or interpretive social sciences) *and* from architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, or urban planning.

Geographic Range

The city examined in the proposed course may come from any geographic region outside the U.S. Because completion of the course is a requirement for all students in the GUH Graduate Certificate program, it should be designed to appeal to students who are interested in cities generally, including those focusing on geographies other than the ones featured in the course. In other words, the proposal should not be conceived of as an area studies course.

Information Session

Applicants are encouraged to attend an information session on Friday, March 24 at 11 am at the BCNM Commons, 340 Moffitt, to learn more about the Global Urban Humanities Initiative and the particulars of this call for proposals. Potential applicants who do not yet have a teaching partner are encouraged to attend this session. RSVP required; please contact GUH program coordinator Tina Novero at tinanovero@berkeley.edu.

Source of Funding

The Initiative is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and has completed three years of sponsoring new courses, symposia, exhibitions, and publications. It is a part of a movement across more than a dozen universities funded by Mellon that is combining architecture and the humanities in new ways. Following three and half highly successful years of the UC Berkeley Initiative, Mellon has renewed funding for Fall 2016 through Spring 2020.

What is a “Studio” Course?

The studio form of pedagogy has a long tradition in architecture and urban planning, and the Global Urban Humanities Initiative has adapted this hands-on, experiential, fieldwork-based format so that students with no previous design background can fully participate alongside students in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and City and Regional Planning.

The “studio” course is defined by its location in a studio room, which belongs to a single class for 24 hours a day for the entire semester. In this room, an iterative, collaborative process of research, design, review by invited critics, and revision occurs. Students explore a field site in teams and represent information through a variety of means.

In the case of a GUH research studio, in contrast to a traditional architecture studio, students are not required to create design proposals, but instead create methods of representing their research on and interpretation of cities through media that may include photography, video, performance, diagrams, drawings, maps, and models, as well as writing.

In our experience, collaborative work among students is important to the success of the studio. Therefore, some team-based assignments should be included. Students should be given opportunities both to play to their strengths and to venture outside their comfort zones.

Each of our studios has resulted in a final group product of a book, catalog, and/or exhibition. Proposals should include a description of this final work product and proposers should be prepared to continue work on this product in the summer and semester following the course.

The GUH website, globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu and GUH publications in both hard copy (available from Susan Moffat) and online provide insight into our approach. For examples of past GUH studios, visit our [Academic Program](#) page and review the courses listed as “studio.” Also see Professor Margaret Crawford’s presentation on [research studios](#).

Faculty who are not familiar with the studio method of pedagogy are welcome to apply in collaboration with College of Environmental Design (CED) faculty who can share their knowledge. Similarly, faculty from CED who may not be expert in humanities methods including close reading, formal analysis, discourse analysis, archival research and digital humanities approaches are encouraged to connect with arts and humanities and interpretive social sciences faculty to make a proposal. If you are seeking a partner, please let Susan Moffat know as soon as possible so she can help connect faculty with shared interests.

Student Demographics

Global Urban Humanities graduate courses include students from a wide range of disciplines. Students from architecture, landscape architecture and city planning study collaboratively with students from anthropology, art practice, comparative literature, geography, history, music, performance studies, rhetoric, area studies, and so on. The course proposed should be explicitly designed to maximize learning among students from different disciplines and encourage cross-disciplinary inquiry.

Ways of looking at cities that the course might explore could include some of the following: close study of the artifact, text, or space; spatial thinking and representation; temporal/narrative thinking; exploration of individual experience and sense; analysis of systems and institutions; fieldwork and ethnographic approaches; archival research and historical approaches; the connection between interpretation and intervention, and design, making and performance as analysis.

Course Report

In order to help with curriculum development and reporting to the Mellon Foundation, a course report shall be submitted by the beginning of the fall semester following the spring semester in which the course is offered. This will include the syllabus, course roster, examples of student work products including images, and reflections on pedagogical and methodological lessons learned.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Proposers are encouraged to talk with GUH Project Director Susan Moffat before submitting. Proposers should fill out the application [Cover Sheet](#) with brief answers. In addition, proposers should submit a narrative application formatted as a Word document that includes a description of all of the following:

- I. Proposers
 - A. Proposers, their disciplinary backgrounds, titles and intellectual interests
 - B. Proposer experience in interdisciplinary teaching and research
 - C. Proposer experience managing travel with students, if any
- II. Course Concept
 - A. Research destination and questions to be posed
 - B. Key questions and themes to be addressed
 - C. Cross-disciplinary issues to be explored
 - D. Collaborating local partner organization/local experts (if known); please list individual names and specify whether relationships are existing or to be developed
- III. Pedagogical Approach

- A. Methods to be employed, assignments, and student work products required
 - B. Any need for technical workshops or training for students and faculty
 - C. Techniques to encourage cross-disciplinary learning among students
- IV. Course Outline
- A. Course title and short description
 - B. Schedule (schematic)
 - C. Representative readings
 - D. Representative assignments (team or individual?)
 - E. Final group product (i.e. catalog, exhibition, etc.)
 - F. Proposed budget (include representative airfares, lodging, etc.)
- V. CV for both proposers (can be a separate PDF document)
- VI. Statement of whether course replacement funds will be needed, with brief explanation. Letter of support from your chair will be requested before grant is awarded. Please discuss this opportunity with your chair before submitting application.

HOW TO SUBMIT

The proposal should be submitted as a single Word document (not a PDF). CVs should be submitted as separate files and may be PDFs. Please name proposal files as follows: City_Year to be taught_Last Names of Proposers

Please email proposals as attachments to Tina Novero, GUH Program Coordinator at tinanovero@berkeley.edu. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt.

Questions about the application process should be directed to GUH Project Director Susan Moffat at susanmoffat@berkeley.edu.