

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN URBAN HUMANITIES

STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Please subscribe to our newsletter and listserv (from the homepage on our website) to be informed of updates to the handbook.

Program Benefits

The Graduate Certificate in Global Urban Humanities provides a framework for the study of cities and urban life that brings together approaches from many disciplines. Participation in the Certificate program makes you part of an active community of scholars and urban practitioners and artists engaged in development new methods of research and teaching. Having the Certificate on your transcript will demonstrate that you have:

- 1) expertise in the interdisciplinary study of urban form and experience
- 2) the ability to engage methods from the humanities and environmental design (architecture, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, and urban design) and to use hybrid methods of investigation and pedagogy including fieldwork in urban settings.

The certificate gives you the opportunity to find new ways of thinking about the city by exploring methods and theories from outside your home discipline.

For students pursuing degrees in the environmental design disciplines, the certificate is intended to demonstrate your knowledge of methods from the arts and humanities including close reading, formal analysis, performance analysis, archival research, using visual and performative arts as a means of investigation, etc.

For students in the arts and humanities, the certificate attests to your knowledge of urban theory and your exposure to research techniques commonly used in architectural and urban planning education, such as field observation, spatial analysis, mapping, visual representation, ethnographic interviews and surveys.

For students in the social sciences, the certificate shows your research on cities has been shaped by methods from architecture and urban planning as well as from the arts and humanities. These methods may help you think about images, space and human experience in broader and deeper ways.

For students in STEM fields, the certificate demonstrates your interest in cities and the human and spatial functioning of urban spaces. The knowledge gained in GUH courses can help shape your research in engineering or scientific questions about cities and the environment in meaningful ways and enhance your interactions with urban designers, environmental planners, artists, etc.

For students in professional schools, the certificate will demonstrate your knowledge of cities and of the cross-disciplinary humanities and design methods noted above. If you are interested in ways that the arts can enhance urban life and wellness, in the connections between education and urban spaces, or in the ways that information technology and urban experience interact, this certificate program will be a home for your inquiry.

For students in all disciplines, the certificate may increase your competitiveness for jobs in teaching or practice by showing that you have experience in experiential, project-based pedagogy as well as in teaching and public engagement techniques that include visual representation, iteration, oral presentation, participatory processes, and multi-media, multi-vocal communication.

By pursuing the certificate, you will gain

- Eligibility to apply for a Global Urban Humanities Fellowship
- Priority admittance to the GUH Core Seminar and International Research Studio
- Membership in a community of scholars and urban practitioners deeply interested in cities
- A Certificate in Global Urban Humanities recorded on your transcript

Program Requirements

There are three required courses:

- a Core Seminar
- a Core Interdisciplinary Research Studio, and
- an Elective (outside of home division).

The **Core Seminar** will introduce you to theories and methods for investigating urban form and the human experience in cities through readings, discussion, written assignments, and exercises that may include ethnographic interviewing, mapping, and visual representation. You will be helping shape the emerging field of urban humanities through readings that may include authors including de Certeau, Lefebvre, Debord, Harvey, Sennett, and Lynch.

The **Core Interdisciplinary Research Studio** will give you an opportunity to conduct a fieldwork-based investigation of a city. In 2018 through 2020 this will be a city overseas; thereafter, the site may or may not be international, depending on funding. The Research Studio is inspired by the tradition of studio pedagogy in architecture and urban planning and results in work products that often take the form of visual products as well as written essays.

The studio course takes place in a classroom (the “studio”) occupied exclusively by the students in enrolled in the course for the semester where both discussion and the making of physical objects takes place. The studio takes place through an iterative and collaborative process of field research, analysis, representation (usually through visual, audio, and/or physical rather than just textual means), presentation, public critique, further research and representation, etc.

This research studio is designed to provide a unique experience that allows students without a background in design to fully participate in the studio experience along with students who do have that background. No previous design experience or ability to produce visual products is required.

The **Elective** is an opportunity for further exploration of topics or methods in the study of cities. For the elective requirement, you are required to take a course outside your home discipline and division. (Exceptions will be considered by petition.) (For the purposes of this requirement, History will be counted as a Humanities discipline even though it is in the Social Sciences Division.)

The elective might be topically or methodologically focused. Examples of topical courses might be courses on the history of a particular city, on public art in cities, on the urban experience of women, etc. Examples of methodological courses might be research methods in environmental design, in ethnography, in performance studies etc. These methodological courses might not have a purely urban focus, but you should plan to use the methods learned in an urban setting or on an urban topic within the structure of the course assignments if at all possible.

These three courses can be completed in any order.

Application:

In order to be accepted into the Certificate program you must fill out the Graduate Certificate Application Form and submit to GUH Program Coordinator Sarah Hwang at globalurbanhumanities@berkeley.edu. Once you have completed the courses, you will receive a Certificate and it will be recorded on your transcript.

Eligibility:

Students in PhD programs in any department in the College of Environmental Design and the College of Letters & Science are eligible. Students in PhD programs in other Colleges, Schools and Groups may also pursue the Certificate. Students in professional and terminal master's degree programs (MCP, MArch, MLA, MFA, MIMS, MPH etc.) are also eligible.

List of Required Courses:

**I. Core Seminar in the Global Urban Humanities:
Theories and Methods of the Urban Humanities (4 units)**

Spring 2020

The City, Arts, and Public Space (title may be subject to change)

CY PLAN 291/TDPS 266

Instructors: Jason Luger (City Planning) and Angela Marino (Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies)

Time + Location: TBD

Check the [Graduate Program](#) section of the GUH website for updates.

II. Core Interdisciplinary Research Studio:

Fieldwork in the Global Urban Humanities (4 units)

The Research Studio will be taught in Spring 2020 and is on “Berlin: The Guilt Environment” taught by Lauren Kroiz (History of Art) and Andrew Shanken (Architecture). Applications to enroll will be available in Fall 2019. Check the Graduate Program section of the GUH website for updates.

Spring 2020

Berlin: The Guilt Environment

ARCH 209/HISTART 290

Instructors: Lauren Kroiz (History of Art) and Andrew Shanken (Architecture)

Time + Location: TBD

(Please see the [Graduate Program](#) section of the GUH website to see examples of past studio courses.)

III. Elective:

Topics and Methods in the Global Urban Humanities (3-4 units)

Please visit the GUH website

(<http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/graduate-certificate-elective-course-list>) for the most current list (paying close attention to the course section number and instructor as well as main number). Please note that because the content of courses listed here may change from year to year, the courses may not always count as an elective until you confirm with GUH staff that the course and the section you are choosing qualify as a GUH elective for that semester. You may also petition to count courses not on this list using the Elective Petition form. Elective must be outside your home division (for the purposes of this requirement, History will be counted as an Arts & Humanities discipline although it is part of the Social Sciences Division). Exceptions will be considered by petition.

FAQ

Can I take two courses totaling 3-4 units instead of one 3-4 unit course to fulfill the elective requirement?

In some cases, by petition.

Can an upper-level undergraduate course fulfill the elective requirement?

In some cases, by petition.

Can courses taken prior to application for the Certificate count toward certificate requirements?

In some cases, by petition.