

Global Urban Humanities Undergraduate Certificate

Student Handbook and Course List

Updated 6/4/2019

Complete information, application and petition forms are available at
<http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/Undergraduate%20Program>

This handbook will be regularly updated. You are responsible for checking the GUH website to ensure you are using the latest version of the handbook. Once you sign up to pursue the certificate you will receive emails informing you of updates to the handbook.

Welcome to the Global Urban Humanities Undergraduate Certificate Program! If you are interested in an interdisciplinary approach to studying cities and urban life, we hope you will join our community of urbanists, artists, designers, scholars and practitioners.

Program Benefits

The Undergraduate Certificate in Global Urban Humanities provides a framework for the study of cities and urban life that brings together approaches from many disciplines, with an emphasis on approaches from the arts and humanities and the design disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, city planning, and urban design.

Participation in the Certificate program makes you part of an active community of scholars and urban practitioners and artists engaged in developing new methods of research and teaching.

By pursuing the certificate, you will gain:

- 1) knowledge of urban form and experience
- 2) the ability to engage methods from the arts and humanities and from environmental design (architecture, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, and urban design)
- 3) the opportunity to participate in a unique Interdisciplinary Research Studio in which you will conduct urban fieldwork and explore methods that may include mapping, interviews, and making art and performance in order to understand an urban site.

For students pursuing degrees in the environmental design disciplines, the certificate is intended to show you have explored methods from the arts and humanities that may include close reading, formal analysis, performance analysis, archival research, using visual and performing arts as a means of investigation, etc.

For students in the arts and humanities, the certificate attests to your interest in cities 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.

By pursuing the certificate, you will gain

- Priority admittance to the GUH Interdisciplinary Research Studio
- Membership in a community of scholars and urban practitioners deeply interested in cities
- A Certificate in Global Urban Humanities (not recorded on your transcript)

Program Requirements

There are three required courses:

- a core Interdisciplinary Research Studio
- an elective from the College of Environmental Design
- an elective from the College of Letters and Science

The **core Interdisciplinary Research Studio** will give you an opportunity to conduct a fieldwork-based investigation of an urban site. The Research Studio is inspired by the tradition of studio pedagogy in design 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 one course in the College of Environmental Design and one in the College of Letters and Science. (Exceptions will be considered by petition.)

The elective from either College 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 ethnographic filmmaking, 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. Note that the Interdisciplinary Research Studio is offered only once a year in the spring and you must apply for admission to the course early in the previous fall.

Application:

In order to be accepted into the Certificate program you must fill out the Undergraduate 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 printed Certificate. The Certificate is NOT recorded on your transcript.

Eligibility:

Undergraduate students from any UC Berkeley college or school are eligible.

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.

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

In some cases, by petition.

Can courses that count for my major or that fulfill distribution requirements also count toward the Certificate?

Yes.

Are all of the courses on this list available to all students?

Some courses have seats reserved for students in the major and a limited number of seats for non-majors. Other courses may have other restrictions. The Core Interdisciplinary Research Studio is open to all undergraduates who have signed up to pursue the Certificate and requires approval of the instructors.

COURSE LIST

You must complete one course each from **categories I, II, and III**.

Category I is the Core Interdisciplinary Research Studio Course, which is designed specifically as a GUH course. It is only offered once a year in the spring and has limited enrollment. For 2019-2020 you must apply in Fall 2019 (visit the [Undergraduate Program](#) webpage for application deadline). Please think ahead in order to plan to enroll in this course before graduation. There are no prerequisites for this course and you can enroll at any point in your undergraduate career. Note that the studio has a heavy workload including fieldwork (off-campus team projects), so you might consider taking it at a time when you are not writing a thesis or taking other very demanding courses.

You must take one elective in the College of Environmental Design (**category II**) and one elective in the College of Letters and Science (**category III**). If you find other relevant courses (including from other divisions and schools) you may petition to have them count as your elective, using the Course Petition Form. To view some eligible electives, visit the [Undergraduate Certificate Elective Course List](#). You must make the petition BEFORE taking the course, including those on the Elective Course List. We encourage you to share with us ideas for courses on cities and urban topics that should be added to our list, as other students may be interested as well.

Courses in *italics* sometimes but not always focus on urban topics. They will count as a GUH elective depending on the topic taught that semester. To get credit for one of these courses as a GUH elective, you must get approval using the Course Petition prior to taking the course.

I. CORE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIO:

Spring 2020

**EAST BAY REVOLUTION: URBAN SPACES OF PROTEST AND
COUNTERCULTURE PRACTICE**

American Studies H110/Environmental Design 190

(you may register under either course number; approval required--see note in intro above)

Instructors: Greg Castillo (Architecture) and Scott Saul (English)

II. COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN ELECTIVES

Please visit the GUH website

(<http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/Undergraduate%20Program>) 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.

III. COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Please visit the GUH website

(<http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/Undergraduate%20Program>) 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.

For questions about the certificate requirements, contact Sarah Hwang, Global Urban Humanities Program Coordinator at globalurbanhumanities@berkeley.edu.

For questions about registering for courses (waitlist, approval of instructor, etc.) please look up information on CalCentral, the Guide <http://guide.berkeley.edu/courses/>, and this search tool: <http://courses.berkeley.edu>. If you cannot find the answer from these three sources, please contact the scheduler for the department the course is in or your departmental major advisor.