**WINTER JANUARY2024 BARCELONA**

**RESILIENT CITY**

NEW YORK DEPARTURE AND RETURN DATES: DECEMBER 31ST–JANUARY 17TH, 2024

**Barcelona, known for having one of the most thriving contemporary cultures in the world**. This global city is a model of sustainable urban change for other world cities and offers a rich contemporary culture as well as an important political and historic background. Barcelona’s current mayor, Ada Colau, was a well-known housing activist before becoming the city’s first female mayor. **During the month of January the city will celebrate its vibrant culture by hosting the Barcelona King’s Parade 2024**.

This study abroad course provides a unique opportunity to experience and study Barcelona City through lectures and custom-made guided tours in Barcelona. This course will enable students to understand Barcelona and its new urban policies which are focused on promoting a “common good” through the co-management of urban space (BUITS Plan), initiatives towards environmental justice and participatory governance policies.

**SYLLABUS**  
  
**COURSE TITLE:** Barcelona, Sustainability and Resilient Cities (3 credits)

BARCELONA, known for having one of the most thriving contemporary cultures in the world, will host this course and internship. This global city is a MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN CHANGE for other world cities and offers a rich contemporary culture as well as an important political and historic background. Mass-migration, Climate change, and the New Urban Crisis−all caused by different systemic crisis in the environment, the economy and the society− have affected the evolution of the quality of urban life, specifically in Southern Europe and the US. These short and long-term stresses and shocks have brought substantial changes via a Creative Destruction Urban process. Therefore, there is a need to understand, structure and analyze current urban crises in order to achieve resilient cities. Barcelona and NYC case studies are unique cities that share similar process, including the urban social movements in the seventies or the Private-Public-Partnership models lead by Cities Strategic Plans such as the OneNYC plan and Barcelona Sustainability Plan 2012-2022. In 2015, Ada Colau, one of the multiple activists from the movement against the eviction, became the new elected mayor of Barcelona. This created a window of opportunity for change in the city’s urban dynamic and their desire for a “common good” that includes social justice, social cohesion, participatory governance, and wellbeing for all. These two courses offered over the summer in Barcelona provide a unique opportunity to study, experience, compare two major global cities (NYC\_BCN) and a new urban crisis process. These courses will prepare students to understand and evaluate urban dynamics that aim at achieving sustainable and resilient cities in a globalization context. Students will learn from a Queens College professor who is originally from Barcelona and has been lecturer at Barcelona Pompeu Fabra University and worked as an urban planner and activist for over 15 years in Barcelona, including during the Great Recession.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This study abroad course provides a unique opportunity to experience and study Barcelona through lectures and custom-made guided tours to multiple neighborhood sites. This course will enable students to UNDERSTAND BARCELONA GLOBAL CITY AND ITS PAST AND NEW URBAN POLICIES which are focused on promoting a "common good" through the co-management of urban space, initiatives towards social justice and participatory policies.

**COURSE FRAMEWORK:**

No foreign language pre-requisite. English is the language of instruction (knowledge of basic Spanish is helpful but not required). Students will make a 60-minute group presentation to the entire class and invited guests on the final day of class explaining their findings and research.

* Students will also keep a journal to record their experiences, learning, and personal reactions to the course visits. Entries will include written and visual records.
* Teaching is divided between lectures with slides and on-site lectures
* Guided visits to neighborhoods, community-based organizations, and official institutions are as important as lectures taught in class.
* Teaching and local experiences are object-based and students are required to participate in the description and analysis of urban dynamics in class and on site.
* We will be using a daily class blog for lectures and readings; remaining class materials will be available on our shared class folder.

In addition to classroom lectures held at the host institution and students will participate in trips with guided tours to:

1. **Barceloneta** District including Environmental and Sustainability Education Center
2. **Poblenou District** including, superblock case study
3. **Grid Eixample District** including Gaudi Architecture, Contemporany Urban Renewal case studies and community gardens (Germanetes).
4. **Gracia District and Vallcarca neighborhood:** Including community-based organizations such as Squatters movement, Turull Environmental Center and Vallcarca observatory, Park Güell (Gaudí, architect), Land Art sculpture and City History Museum.
5. **Sants** District including Miró Fondation and an abandoned factory, "Can Batlló", converted in community center.
6. **Downtown District (Ciutat Vella**) including Santa Caterina Market, Barceloneta and Raval neighborhood.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE WINTER 2024:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNES. | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 31st December  JFK-BCN Flight |
| 1st January  Barcelona  Dorm Arrival  Walkthrough | 2nd  Raval  Field Trip  Welcome  Lunch | 3rd  Eixample Grid  Field Trip | 4th  Sants District  Field Trip | 5th  Poblenou District  Field Trip  King’s Parade | 6th  King Spanish  Festivity  FREE | 7th  Gracia District  Field Trip |
| 8th  Welcome  UPF  Session Guest Lecturer | 9th  Study Abroad Assignment  Discussion | 10th  Sagrada Familia  Gaudi  Field trip | 11th  Work in groups | 12th  FREE | 13th  FREE | 14th  FREE |
| 15th  Study Abroad Assignment  Discussion | 16th  Final Presentation  Farewell Lunch | 17th  BCN-JFK Flight | 18th | 19th | 20th | 21st |

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Using two case studies, the cities of Barcelona and New York, this course aims at understanding how cities respond to challenges such as climate change, energy scarcity, rezoning process, social justice and (tourist and green) gentrification.

This URBST206 study abroad course in Barcelona will focus on lectures, visits to five different neighborhoods in the city, public and private institutions, and community-based organizations. While the course will conduct a comparative analysis between NYC and Barcelona cities, students will analyze and understand both sustainable and resilient cities strategic plans. The course will use the *Resilience Thinking* theory to improve the students’ understanding of cycles of urban process of change and crisis. Most specifically, the course will explore the economic vulnerabilities and windows of opportunity introduced by the different dynamic cycles of urban change. Students will work both individually and in groups to analyze and interpret*tactical urbanism* emergent actions.

Content hours: 45 hours

Lectures: 4 sessions (4 hours each)

Field Trip Experiential Learning Activities: 6 sessions (5 hours each)

**PROFESSOR’S BIOGRAPHY AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN THE HOST COUNTRY:**

Dr. Rafael de Balanzo Joue, Architect, Urban Designer and Resilience Thinking expert

Part-time Faculty at the Economics and Urban Studies Department Queens College and Geography and Environmental Science at Hunter College, CUNY.

Rafael de Balanzo was born and grew up in Barcelona. After studying architecture in Belgium and traveling to the US, he returned to Barcelona to work as an architect and urban designer and was awarded several architectural prizes. Professor de Balanzo also holds a PhD in Sustainability and Urban Planning from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. He has over 15 years of experience teaching at different universities in Europe and the US. Professor de Balanzo has ample experience managing students exchange programs in Europe (Belgium, UK, France and Finland), as well as ERASMUS faculty. In addition, he was Director of the Master of Design and Habitat in the ELISAVA School Design and Engineering, Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona, for over 10 years.

Currently, he teaches at the Economics and Urban Studies departments at Queens College at CUNY. He is also member of the International Habitat Cooperation Program on "Action without Borders" for the International Union of Architects. He promotes "Resilience Thinking" through urban participatory process in neighborhoods in crisis in Latin America and Spain.