

PLAN6099 - SPRING 2017



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# EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE URBANISM

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## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This spring course will focus on a three-week travel program that will introduce you to European sustainable urban design and architecture, especially focusing on urban redevelopment sites.

The program has three parts. During the semester, you will select a theme of your choice to study in the cities we will travel to during the summer. For that theme, you will present and develop a 'guide' on your theme to inform us during the summer trip. We will have bi-weekly meetings to discuss and present your guide.

During our travel portion, we will travel throughout Northwestern Europe for two weeks to visit and discuss sustainable urban projects, stopping in Copenhagen, Malmö, Hamburg, Berlin, the Netherlands, and Paris. We will explore each city by walking and biking, and you will be able to explore your chosen theme. The tour will be intense, but will also leave time for you to explore some of Europe's greatest cities.

Finally, we will travel to Bordeaux to visit several cutting-edge projects in the city, and engage in a week-long workshop on an urban redevelopment site in cooperation with their renowned Université de Bordeaux. This is an excellent chance to work with other urban planning and architecture students on a project that will broaden your horizon.

## **LOCATION**

We will be visiting many cities, often only for a day or two. Most time will be spent at the end of the trip in Bordeaux where we will stay for a week-long workshop. Before Bordeaux we will fly to Copenhagen, the Danish capital quickly becoming known as a leader in sustainable urbanism due to its progressive design and planning culture. We will make a quick stopover in Malmö to visit one of Sweden's top sustainable urban sites, before traveling by train to Hamburg, a northern German city that has embarked on a remarkable waterfront redevelopment project. We will spend a few days in Germany's capital city Berlin, famous for its renaissance after the 1989 Reunification and its status as a hotbed for youth culture and innovation. From Berlin, we will travel to the cities of Rotterdam and Amsterdam in the Netherlands, where we will see cutting edge Dutch urban design and architecture. On our way to Bordeaux, we will make a stopover in Paris. The City of Light is known for its historic charm, but we will focus on its innovative path to the future.

We will mostly travel by rail within Europe, ranging from the commuter lines of Copenhagen and Berlin to the high-speed trains in France. Within each city, we will walk and bike extensively.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND COURSE INFORMATION**

While most of the educational value of this course will be through the exciting travel experience in Europe, the course does have a set of clear deliverables that will demonstrate your ability to meet its learning objectives. Upon completion of this course, you will:

- Understand the past, present and future visions for Copenhagen, Hamburg, Berlin, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Paris and Bordeaux;

- Experience a range of sustainable urban and architectural projects in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France and The Netherlands;
- Understand the components of sustainable urbanism in these projects;
- Apply the concepts and components of sustainable urbanism in an intensive workshop setting at the Université de Bordeaux
- Articulate your views on European sustainable urbanism and its components in written and drawn form.

In order to achieve these goals, this course will grade you on the following three elements:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Presentation of a 'guide' on a sustainable urban topic during the semester | – 50% of grade |
| a. Presentation of the guide  | - 25%          |
| b. Content of the guide   | - 25%          |
| 2. Class participation in discussions during the semester                     | – 25% of grade |
| 3. Workshop presentation at the Université de Bordeaux                        | – 25% of grade |

The course deliverables and their role in the final grade are subject to change to respond to the makeup of the students participating in this course. Please discuss with the instructor if you are graduating before the trip commences. In this case, you will need to show significant motivation to complete the course to receive a preliminary course grade before departure.

## **COURSE DELIVERABLES**

### **1. Presentation on sustainable urban topic**

During the course, you will form teams of two people, preferably with a different disciplinary background. Your team will select a topic on sustainable urbanism of your choice that relates to all the cities we will be visiting. Topic may include a social or environmental issue and its response; the work of a certain designer or design movement; a certain type of project or technology; or other topics relating to the course content.

You are asked to create a guide on this topic that will tell us about the location, history and current status of a corresponding specific project, site or district in each of the major cities we will be visiting: Copenhagen, Hamburg, Berlin, Amsterdam/Rotterdam, Paris and Bordeaux. For example, if you choose affordable housing, you are asked to study and describe an affordable housing project in each city. The guide should draw from as many original sources as possible (i.e. not Wikipedia or other encyclopedia's) and should contain written text, maps and graphics to describe your theme.

You will present this guide during the semester to the team, and the guide is due in full the last class day of the semester, on Friday April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **2. Workshop at the Université de Bordeaux**

During the last week of our travels through Europe, we will visit the exciting city of Bordeaux in southwestern France. This eighth-largest city of France offers us a rich historical urban fabric as

well as an array of cutting-edge urban projects to visit in the central city and the neighborhoods that surround it. After touring the city for the weekend, we will engage in a workshop that will focus on analyzing and revising an urban project in Bordeaux, connecting the knowledge we have gained during the semester and our travel throughout Europe. The details of the workshop week will be finalized during the spring term.

### **3. Travel participation**

Your fellow students, the instructor and the University are very excited to have you join this travel course. You are expected to actively participate in this course, including participating in class discussions in Cincinnati and the travel portions. Instructions by the course instructors and other authorities should at all times be followed: these are always made in the best interest of you and your colleagues. You are expected to show responsibility, leadership and respect toward your colleagues and the cultures you visit. You are seen as an ambassador to the University when abroad, a role that carries the responsibility of appropriate behavior at all times.

### **4. Reflective essay on a topic of your choice relating to European sustainable urbanism**

Ultimately, this course is about your exploration of innovative ways to build a more sustainable city. One of the main outcomes of this course are the insights you'll gain from the travel portion of the course. We would like to ask you to write a reflective essay on your travel experience to us, preferably selecting the theme you have studied before and during our travels. The essay is due at the end of the summer, on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. As this essay is written after the course is complete, it will not be graded. However, it will help you and us reflect on the learning experience this unique travel course has offered.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

The travel portion of the course will take place between May 13<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Students may choose to stay in Europe after these dates at their own discretion, but the group travel cannot be truncated.

### Transportation

You are required to book your own flight arrangements between the United States and Europe, flying to Copenhagen, and flying back from Bordeaux. Internal travel within Europe will be provided, including local transportation and train travel between cities.

### Lodging

Lodging is provided in shared accommodations to keep the travel cost as low as possible. You will stay with one or more fellow students of the same gender in either a shared hotel room or hostel. You can expect hostel accommodation especially in more expensive cities like Copenhagen, Paris and Amsterdam. In Bordeaux, we will be staying at an apartment hotel.

### Food

An opening and closing meal will be provided as part of the course. While breakfast will be provided if possible, other meals are at your own expense. This is meant to streamline the lunch and dinner process, and to entice you to explore the culinary culture of the many countries that you will visit!

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

A valid passport is essential to your international travel. If you don't have a valid passport, its best to apply for a passport **now** as processing times may vary. Please see <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports.html> for more information.

In order to obtain country-specific visa instructions and resources, refer to your host country's embassy web page. One way to access this information is via the US Department of State's webpage at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans\\_1252.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html)

UC International is happy to you to possible resources about visas for study abroad. US citizens will not need a visa to enter Europe. Some foreign citizens will need to apply for a 'Schengen' visa at the French Consulate, which will allow you to travel to the other European countries as well. The application process is outlined at <http://www.consulfrance-chicago.org/>; you will need to **travel to the French Consulate in Chicago** to apply for the visa in person. Applying for the necessary visa for travel is ultimately the responsibility of the individual UC traveler. Entry requirements change frequently and we advise you to pay close information to consular updates. It is your responsibility to knowing and addressing the requirements for your host study abroad destination.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY ABROAD

UC International is committed to student and faculty safety while abroad. Bicycle rides through major European cities are a key part of this tour; while city traffic is generally safe, participants are advised to

familiarize themselves with bicycling safety, techniques and etiquette. We will also be walking longer distances to explore each city.

The following are a few resources for travel abroad.

You are ultimately responsible for your own health and safety abroad. The US Department of State, Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and International SOS are excellent resources for country specific information.

UC partners with International SOS medical and security advice. UC code is 11BCAS000010

UC students can utilize International SOS in the following ways:

- Sign up to receive email alerts for medical and security information, customizable to various locations abroad
- Read about travel health information with medical advice, food and water safety, and cultural tips
- Explore travel security with personal safety tips and travel risk ratings for locations abroad

UC faculty, students and staff traveling abroad should register their travel abroad through the US Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) in case of an emergency abroad.

All UC students participating in a University of Cincinnati sanctioned or funded international travel program are **required to purchase and maintain insurance while abroad**. The cost of insurance is included in the program fee. UC International partners with CISI to provide insurance for UC students.

## **PROFESSOR CONTACT**

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## **COURSE SEMESTER OUTLINE**

Wednesday January 11 – introductory meeting - Presentation on Dutch urbanism by Professor Conrad Kickert and French urbanism by Professor Rebecca Williamson

Wednesday January 25 – Presentation on Topic 1 by team 1

Wednesday February 8 – Presentation on Topic 2 by team 2

Wednesday February 22 – Presentation on Topic 3 by team 3

Wednesday March 8 – Presentation on Topic 4 by team 4

Wednesday March 22 – Presentation on Topic 5 by team 5

Wednesday April 5 – Presentation on Topic 6 by team 6

Wednesday April 19 – Presentation on Topic 7 by team 7 – travel preparation

Friday April 21 – due date for guide

Saturday May 13 – Friday June 2 – **Travel to Europe**

Thursday August 31 – due date for reflective essay

**DRAFT TRAVEL OUTLINE**

DAY			
0	Sat	13-May	Overnight flight US - Copenhagen
1	Sun	14-May	Free day and acclimation Copenhagen
2	Mon	15-May	Tour of Copenhagen and meeting with Gehl Architects
3	Tue	16-May	Free day Copenhagen / afternoon tour to Malmo
4	Wed	17-May	Morning train to Hamburg - tour of Hafencity / inner city
5	Thu	18-May	Free day Hamburg (optional tour of IBA)
6	Fri	19-May	Morning train to Berlin - day tour
7	Sat	20-May	Free day Berlin (optional tour of Siedlungen)
8	Sun	21-May	Day train to Rotterdam
9	Mon	22-May	Morning tour of Rotterdam and free day
10	Tue	23-May	Day tour of Amsterdam
11	Wed	24-May	Free day Rotterdam/Amsterdam (optional tour of The Hague) - Evening train to Paris
12	Thu	25-May	Tours of Paris (Rive Gauche, Clichy-Batignolles, Villette)
13	Fri	26-May	Free day Paris (optional arcades tour)
14	Sat	27-May	Morning train to Bordeaux - afternoon tour of Bassins a Flot, Darwin
15	Sun	28-May	Morning market visit, afternoon visit of Cité Frugès
16	Mon	29-May	Workshop Bordeaux
17	Tue	30-May	Workshop Bordeaux
18	Wed	31-May	Workshop Bordeaux
19	Thu	1-Jun	Workshop Bordeaux
20	Fri	2-Jun	End of workshop (CK leaves for NL, students return to US)