

Urban Humanities

The Certificate in Urban Humanities provides an academic structure for the study of urban life and urban form using methods from the environmental design disciplines, the arts and humanities, and the interpretive social sciences. The Urban Humanities are an emerging interdisciplinary set of practices in which hybrid methods of investigation, including artistic and interpretive as well as analytical approaches, are applied to the study of urban experience.

Through a three-course series, the Certificate offers PhD and Master's degree students the opportunity to supplement their major areas of study with courses that explore cities and urban experience through a variety of disciplinary approaches. In particular, the Certificate emphasizes the intersection of interpretive approaches from the arts and humanities (including close reading, formal analysis, discourse analysis and the making of artistic work products) with methods from the environmental design disciplines (including spatial analysis, representation, and iterative design interventions as a means of research).

The UC Berkeley Future Histories Lab (<http://futurehistories.berkeley.edu/>) is the home to the Certificate in Urban Humanities, which grew out of the Global Urban Humanities Initiative (<http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/>). Future Histories Lab focuses on community-engaged, project-based studio courses that seek to reveal hidden histories in order to imagine new narratives.

The Certificate Program is led by Principal Investigators Jennifer Wolch, Dean Emerita of the College of Environmental Design and Anthony J. Cascardi, Dean Emeritus of the Arts & Humanities Division of the College of Letters & Science. Susan Moffat is Creative Director of Future Histories Lab and Executive Director of the Global Urban Humanities Initiative.

Any UC Berkeley graduate student in good standing (GPA of 3.0 or better) may apply. To apply, students should send their Berkeley course transcript and their completed Graduate Application Form to the Global Urban Humanities Initiative. Applications are accepted twice a year during the fall and spring semesters.

Application forms and the student handbook can be found here (<https://futurehistories.berkeley.edu/graduate-certificate-program/>).

There are three required courses for the Global Urban Humanities Graduate Certificate:

- Humanities Studio
- Elective in the College of Environmental Design
- Elective in the College of Letters and Science (humanities emphasis)

Humanities Studio

The Humanities Studio is an interdisciplinary, project-based, community-engaged course in which students work closely with a community organization to research a neighborhood or a theme and to co-produce creative as well as documentary work telling often untold stories--always with an eye to the future. These specially designed courses focus on a different topic in each iteration and combine methods from the humanities, such as the study of literature, music, film, and performance, with methods from environmental design such as mapping, spatial analysis, and demographic analysis. The classes produce public-facing products such as exhibitions, websites, short

films, performances, or tours. The hands-on, project-based pedagogy in these classes provides experience useful to graduate students interested in the public humanities or in broadening their pedagogical knowledge. The Humanities Studio is generally offered once a year in the Spring and also in the Summer. Examples can be found here (<https://futurehistories.berkeley.edu/courses/>).

Elective Courses

The elective course requirement is intended to deepen your engagement with both the environmental design and the humanities disciplines. The best way to fulfill this requirement is to take a course in the HUM C132/ENVDES C132, HUM 132AC/ENVDES 132AC, or HUM133AC/ENVDES 133AC series, which are offered in the summer. (Please visit our course page (<https://futurehistories.berkeley.edu/courses/>) for listings.) Other electives may be seen here. (<http://globalurbanhumanities.berkeley.edu/graduate-certificate-elective-course-list/>) As many of the courses which fulfill the electives requirement are special topics courses that change by semester, all electives not listed above must be approved by petition. Note that quantitative social science courses will not fulfill the Letters & Science requirement; the emphasis is on courses in the Arts & Humanities Division. If you have questions, please contact susanmoffat@berkeley.edu.

If you would like to help build community partnerships, check out our Community Portal (<https://futurehistories.berkeley.edu/community/>) and contact susanmoffat@berkeley.edu.

Global Urban Humanities courses regularly hire graduate student instructors and researchers (GSIs and GSRs). Please contact susanmoffat@berkeley.edu for information.

Intellectual Community

The Certificate in Urban Humanities provides a unique opportunity for making connections with students from across the campus with a shared interest in interdisciplinary approaches to studying urban life. Participation in the Certificate program makes you part of an active community of scholars, urban practitioners, and artists engaged in developing new methods of research and teaching.

Local and Global Perspective

The Certificate is based on the notion that learning occurs in many directions and that cities in the Global South are important sources of knowledge and not just objects of study. The same is true of diverse neighborhoods within global cities in North America and the Western world.

Interdisciplinary Approach

The certificate offers a framework for incorporating theories and methods for interrogating urban places from disciplines both within and outside students' home departments. For students planning to enter the design and planning professions, the Certificate will provide an opportunity to incorporate critical approaches from the humanities in their work. For students in the humanities and social sciences, the Certificate will facilitate their participation in coursework that addresses both urban form and urban experience, and provide a chance to experience the research studio method, a pedagogy central to environmental design education.

Enhancement of Employability

For PhD students, the Certificate will demonstrate not only your knowledge of cities but your exposure to methods of experiential, project-

based learning that may be valued by academic employers. GSI and GSR opportunities may give you a chance to build your pedagogy portfolio. For students in professional programs, the Certificate shows your interest in the human dimension of cities and your ability to interpret urban culture and experience through ethnography, storytelling, mapping, visual representation, and other methods.