

# WINTER JANUARY 2025

## BARCELONA RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

**NEW YORK DEPARTURE AND RETURN DATES: DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024–JANUARY 15TH, 2025**

**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 2025.**

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 (Superblock Project), 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 to achieve resilient cities. Barcelona and NYC case studies are unique cities that share similar process, including the urban social movements in the seventies, the Private-Public-Partnership models lead by Cities Strategic Plans such as the OneNYC plan and Barcelona Agenda 2030 Plan. In 2015, Ada Colau, one of the multiple activists from the movement against the eviction, became the newly 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 CUNY 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 20 years in Barcelona, including during the 2008 Great Recession period.

## 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 10-minute group presentation to the entire class and invited guests on the final day of class explaining their findings and research.

- Students must keep a digital 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 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 .

## 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 study abroad course in Barcelona will focus on walkscapes and 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 processes 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.

## GRADING

1. **45%** individually Daily Activity [15 sessions 3 points] **Barcelona Walkscapes Digital book** (Milanote Platform)
2. **10%** individually [10 sessions/ 2 students per session] **In-class "sobremesa" discussion** two students per day share digital Book [5 mn sharing opinions from previous day] (2 times participation)
3. **10%** Group work: **Resilience thinking workshop** [Report]
4. **35%** Group work or individua work: **Final NYC/BCN Research project comparison**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE WINTER 2025:** Content hours: in-person 45 hours

2025 QUEENS COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD BARCELONA PROFESSOR-LED RAFAEL DE BALANZO JOUE								45h -3 Credits	
	N	DBK	H	Time	BCN Area	Discipline	Topic	Activity	Description
<b>WEEK 1 Thursday 2nd – Sunday 6th January] [25h]</b>									
<b>Tu31</b>									<b>NYC Departure</b>
<b>Wed1</b>	0								<b>Barcelona Arrival Airport</b>
<b>Th 2</b>	1	<b>D1</b>	3	9-noon	Born	City History	Roman	[W1] Walkscape	Born Market/Placa d/ Sant Jaume Roman
<b>Th 2</b>	1	<b>D2</b>	1	Noon-1pm	Gothic	Art and City	Medieval	[V1] Visit	Picasso and urban history
<b>Th 2</b>	1			1.30 pm	Raval	Gastronomy	Mediterranean	Lunch	Welcome Lunch
<b>Th 2</b>	1	<b>D3</b>	2	4-6 pm		Communities	Gentrification	[W2] Walkscape	Vallcarca Encaixonats & Discussion
<b>Fri 3</b>	2	<b>D4</b>	4	9-1 pm	Eixample	Art & Gaudi	Sustainable	[V2] Visit	10.20am Antonio Lopez + Gaudi Architect
<b>Fri 3</b>	2	<b>D5</b>	2	3-5 pm	Eixample	City History	Manufacturing	[V3] Visit	Oliva artes Barcelona Industrial City
<b>Fri 3</b>	2	<b>D6</b>	1	5-6 pm	Poblenou	Sustainability	Architecture	[W3] Walkscape	Most famous library Biblioteca Garcia
<b>Sat 4</b>	5	<b>D7</b>	7	8am-6pm	Montsera t	Art & Religion	Environmental	[W4] Walkscapes	Montserrat Mountain Site Size Collective
<b>Sun 5</b>	4	<b>D8</b>	2	11am-1p	Eixample	Sustainability	Urbanism	[W5] Walkscape	Superblock Urbanism
<b>Sun 5</b>	4	<b>D9</b>	3	2-5pm	Raval	Art	Contemporani	[V5] Visit	CCCB / MACBA
<b>Sun 5</b>	3	<b>D10</b>		6-8pm	Eixample	Culture	Catalan	[W6] Walkscape	Christmas Lights & Tree Kings
<b>WEEK 2 [Monday 7th – Sunday 12th January] [15h]</b>									
<b>Mon 6</b>	3	<b>D11</b>	4	10 am 2p	Gracia	Landscape	Sustainability	[W7] Walkscape	Tres Turons Central Park
<b>Tu 7</b>	6		1	9.30 10.30	UPF	Sustainability	Resilience	[S1] Seminar	Lecture + Proposal Topics Final Project
<b>Tu 7</b>	6	<b>D12</b>	2	11-1 pm	UPF	Culture	Sustainability	[L1] Lecture	Rosa Claverol Lecture
<b>W 8</b>	7		1	9.30 10.30	UPF	Sustainability	Resilience 2	[S2] Seminar	Resilience Thinking Approach
<b>W 8</b>	7	<b>D13</b>	2	11am-1pm	Council	Sustainability	Agenda 2030	[V6] Visit	Lecture & Discussion Ramon
<b>Th 9</b>	8		2	10-noon	UPF	NYC-BCN	Final Project	[S3] Seminar	First Final Project Pin-up and Discussion
<b>Fri 10</b>	9	<b>D14</b>	3	10am-1pm	EINA	Sustainability	Resilience 3	[W8] Workshop	Resilience Thinking Approach
<b>WEEK 3 [Monday 13th – Tuesday 14th January] [5h]</b>									
<b>M 13</b>	10		3	10-1 pm		NYC-BCN	Final Project	[S5] Seminar	First Final Project Pin-up and Discussion
<b>Tu 14</b>	10		2	10-noon		NYC-BCN	<b>Final Project</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Final Jury</b>
<b>Tu 14</b>	10			1pm		Gastronomy	End celebration	Farewell lunch	<a href="https://andilana.com/locales/vista-mare/">https://andilana.com/locales/vista-mare/</a>
<b>W 15 Barcelona Departure</b>									

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

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

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 20 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 in the Economics and Urban Studies departments at Queens College at CUNY, the Math & Science Department of Pratt Institute and Department of EINA Art & Design school at Barcelona Autonomous University. He is also a 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 communities in crisis in the US, Latin America, France and Spain.