

INTRODUCTION TO URBAN HUMANITIES (UCLA AUD 289-10)

UH Summer Institute 2019, Sept 20-25, 2019



Learning from Westlake: Spaces of Power and Resistance

Instructors: Gustavo Leclerc (Lead Faculty, Architecture and Urban Design), Dana Cuff (Lead Faculty, Architecture and Urban Design)

Teaching Collaborators: Gus Wendel (Urban Planning), Jacqueline Barrios (English), Kenny Wong (Architecture and Urban Design & Urban Planning), Nallely Almaguer-Rodriguez (Architecture)

Westlake/MacArthur Park Hosts: [Art Division](#) - Dan McCleary, Dagmar Brown, Guillermo Perez

- **Library:** 2418 W. 6th St. Los Angeles, CA, 90057
- **Studio:** 2430 W. 6th St., Los Angeles, CA, 90057 (*same block*)

Fotonovela Collaborator: [Leighanna Hidalgo](#)

Social Media Hashtag: #urbanhumanitiesucla

Course Description

Offered over six full days (Friday, September 20 to Wednesday, September 25) the Urban Humanities Summer Institute introduces students to thick mapping as one of the core methodological approaches of urban humanities and provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary research and collaboration. Class time will be divided into lecture/seminar sessions, methods workshops, lab/studio sessions, on-site fieldwork in the Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, and reviews where work produced will be presented and given critical feedback by instructors and guest critics. The UH Summer Institute is one of the components of the first 2-credit methods courses required for a graduate certificate in Urban Humanities and is the first course in the year-long sequence dedicated to studying Los Angeles (Westlake District), Tijuana (Colonia Libertad and Playas), and Mexico City (Xochimilco and Historic Center).

Through Thick Mapping students will immerse themselves in the cultural, social and spatial context of the Westlake area, with a special focus on MacArthur Park and its surrounding neighborhood. Thick Mapping-as-methodology will serve as the framework for our ethnographic spatial analysis of the Westlake/MacArthur Park area, and is the first of several core Urban Humanities methodologies (film and visual art will be introduced in later workshops) through which we will investigate this year's overarching and transnational theme of *Borders and Commons*. These hybrid strategies will help us in creating a layered, multi-dimensional and nuanced portrait of the Westlake/MacArthur Park area that can be used to generate future speculative *Engaged Public Art and Architectural and Urban Design* projects.

In addition, the Westlake area, and its current social and spatial dynamics dramatically transforming it, will be seen as a *microcosm* of the larger forces affecting contemporary Los Angeles, and potentially other large US cities experiencing similar social and spatial changes.

Grading Criteria*

75% = Thick Mapping Westlake [Project Brief](#) and [Rubric](#)

25% = Attendance and participation in all aspects of the Summer Institute

The Thick Mapping Project will be realized collaboratively and will require students to work in interdisciplinary teams. While exact project roles will vary and not everyone will be approaching the project with the same expertise and disciplinary knowledge, all students are expected to make similar contributions in terms of commitment, effort, research, and execution. To reflect upon this first collaborative experience of UHI, all team members will have the opportunity to write-up a brief, confidential description of their experience during the institute, and to provide honest feedback on what worked and what could be improved in terms of assignment expectations, working collaboratively within your teams, and final outputs. Teams will be assigned to balance discipline and experience, and students are expected to work on the same teams for the duration of the Summer Institute. The summer project components are designed to build on one another and launch ideas for a long-term project dedicated to

the theme of “Borders and Commons,” which will be refined and realized over the course of the academic year.

*Your overall grade for the Summer Institute will comprise 50% of the 2-unit methods course (AUD 289-10) which you have already registered for the Fall quarter. The other 50% of your grade will come from the film project, to be assigned at the beginning of Fall quarter.

Introduction to Urban Theory & Westlake

Please read the following texts prior to our first meeting:

Required Readings:

- [“Exploring the Spaces That Difference Makes: Notes on the Margin.” *Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places*, by Edward W. Soja, Blackwell, 1996, pp. 83–105.](#)
- [Leclerc, Gustavo. “The Migrant Architectures of Refugio Posadas.” *UCLA*, 2011.](#)
- Westlake Reader
 - [Alfaro, Luis. “Pico-Union Vignettes.” *La Vida Latina En L.A. Urban Latino Cultures*, edited by Gustavo Leclerc et al., SAGE Publications, 1999, pp. 75–81.](#)
 - Sandoval, Gerardo. [“Introduction.” *Immigrants and the Revitalization of Los Angeles: Development and Change in MacArthur Park*, Cambria Press, 2010, pp. 1–14 & “The Narrative Story: Revitalizing a Neighborhood,” pp. 55–97.](#)
 - [Selected Maps](#)
 - Optional: [Strawn, James. “Who’s MacArthur Park: An Architectural History of Westlake-MacArthur Park.” *USC*, 2008.](#)

Optional Readings and Videos:

- Banham, Reyner, and Joe Day and Anthony Vidler. *Los Angeles the Architecture of Four Ecologies*, University of California Press, 2009.
 - [“Foreword to the 2009 Edition, After Ecologies.” pp. xv-xxxi;](#)
 - [“Foreword to the 2000 Edition, Los Angeles: City of the Immediate Future,” pp. xxxiii-xlix](#)
 - [“In the Rear-View Mirror,” pp. 3–18.](#)
- [“Introducing Urban Humanities.” *Urban Humanities: New Practices for Reimagining the City*, by Dana Cuff et al., MIT Press, 2020, pp. 3–28.](#)
- [Presner, Todd Samuel, et al. *HyperCities: Thick Mapping in the Digital Humanities*. Harvard University Press, 2014.](#)
- [Corner, James. “The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique, and Intervention.” *Mappings*, edited by Denis Cosgrove, Reaktion Books, 1999, pp. 231–252.](#)

CLICC Laptop Lending

Students will be able to check out Macbook laptops with Adobe Creative Suite pre-installed from the Powell CLICC Main Lab for the duration of the Summer Institute. With our course arrangement, students will check out laptops individually and able to keep them overnight until the end of the summer program.

Please note that **students will be fully responsible for the costs of any damage, replacement, and/or late fees** if they are not checked-in by their designated return time. (These laptops are also available at your own convenience during the normal school term on a limited hourly basis from various libraries on campus.)

\$0.20 per minute after a laptop or any equipment is late.

After 24 hours from overdue, in addition to the late fee at \$0.20 per minute (or \$12.00 per hour), an Item Replacement Fee and a \$43 flat processing fee will be charged.

Please also note that as shared library equipment, laptops will erase any files saved on them when they are shut down. Make sure to save all work to an external hard drive, flash drive, or online location.

For both check outs and returns, the CLICC Main Lab is located on the first floor of Powell Library (east wing). It can be found by entering Powell through the front door and taking the first flight up stairs up on the left hand side.

If you are new to campus, please be sure to get your BruinCard before the Summer Institute begins so you can check out your laptop. The BruinCard Center is located at 123 Kerckhoff Hall and open Monday through Friday, 9AM-4PM.

If you are interested in checking out a CLICC laptop, please email Gus at gus.wendel@aud.ucla.edu.

Schedule At-A-Glance

	UCLA Friday 9/20	WL/MP Saturday 9/21	WL/MP Sunday 9/22	UCLA Monday, 9/23	WL/MP Tuesday, 9/24	UCLA, Wednesday, 9/25
10	LECTURE	CHECK IN / FIELDWORK	WORKSHOP	LECTURE	CHECK IN / FIELDWORK	TEAMWORK
11	LECTURE	FIELDWORK	TEAMWORK / LUNCH	LECTURE	FIELDWORK	TEAMWORK
12	LECTURE	FIELDWORK	LUNCH / PRESENTATIONS	LUNCH	FIELDWORK	LUNCH
1	LUNCH	FIELDWORK	PRESENTATIONS / FIELDWORK	WORKSHOPS	LUNCH / REVIEWS	PRESENTATIONS
2	WORKSHOP	FIELDWORK	FIELDWORK	WORKSHOPS	REVIEWS / FIELDWORK	PRESENTATIONS
3	LECTURE	PRESENTATIONS	FIELDWORK	TEAMWORK	FIELD / TEAMWORK	PRESENTATIONS
4	TEAMWORK	PRESENTATIONS	TEAMWORK	TEAMWORK	FIELD / TEAMWORK	PRESENTATIONS
5	DINNER					DINNER

SUMMER INSTITUTE SCHEDULE

Class will be held at UCLA in 1209B Perloff Hall and in Westlake/MacArthur Park at Art Division, located at 2418 (Library) and 2430 (Studio) W 6th St, Los Angeles, CA 90057.

Day 1. Friday, September 20: Introduction to Urban Humanities

MORNING @ UCLA

9:00 - 10:00 AM CLICC LAPTOP CHECK-OUT (*meet Gus at 9 AM, if needed*)

10:00 - 11:30 AM LECTURE & DISCUSSION

- Roundtable Introductions - GL, DC
- Introduction to the Academic Year - GL, DC
- Introduction to Urban Humanities Methodologies - DC

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM LECTURE & DISCUSSION

- Introduction to Urban Theory and the History of the Westlake Area - GL (Readings: Soja, Leclerc, Westlake Reader)

1:00 - 1:45 PM LUNCH

- Lunch @ Perloff Courtyard - Catering provided by Emporium Thai

AFTERNOON @ UCLA

1:45 - 3:00 PM WORKSHOP

- What is Engaged Scholarship/Fieldwork Ethics - GW & JJB

3:00 - 4:15 PM LECTURE & DISCUSSION

- Introduction to Thick Mapping as Critical Cartography - DC
- Introduction to [Project Brief](#) and [Rubric](#) - GL, GW, JJB, KW

4:15 - 5:00 PM TEAMWORK

- [Student Team](#) Meetings and Introductions
- Check out any additional cityLAB equipment - KW

5:00 - 6:00 PM DEBRIEF & DINNER @ Perloff Courtyard

- UHI Dinner - Catering provided by India's Oven

Day 2. Saturday, September 21: Thick Mapping Westlake

Students bring own notes, sketchbook for field notes, maps, smartphones, microphones, cameras, and any other equipment for data collection. Lunch will be on your own in the field.

MORNING @ WL/MP Art Division - Library

10:00 - 11:30 AM CHECK-IN

- Introduction to Art Division @10:15 - Dan
- Use of Space - KW
- Community Guides and Derive - JJB

AFTERNOON @ WL/MP Art Division - Library/Studio

11:30 AM - 3:00 PM - FIELDWORK

- [MacArthur Park/Westlake Derive](#) with Community Partner Guides: Miguel Velasquez (St Barnabas); Guillermo Perez (Art Division); Nallely Almaguer (UCLA)
- Lunch in the field (*please bring cash for lunch*)

3:00 - 5:00 PM PRESENTATIONS

- DUE ASSIGNMENT 1 - Thick Scene Presentation @ AD Studio
- Mapping, Presentations, Discussion of "Thick Scenes" - GL, GW, JJB, KW

Day 3. Sunday, September 22: Thick Mapping Proposals

MORNING @ WL/MP Art Division

10:00 - 10:45 AM PRESENTATION @ Library

- From Thick Scene to Thick Mapping and Speculation - GL, GW, JJB, KW

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM TEAMWORK & LUNCH @ Library/Studio

- Team Work on Thick Mapping Proposals into Lunch - GL, GW, JJB, KW
- Lunch arrives at Noon - Catering provided by Los Molcajetes

AFTERNOON @ WL/MP Art Division

12:30 - 1:30 PM PRESENTATIONS @ Library/Studio

- DUE ASSIGNMENT 2 - PART A - Thick Mapping Proposals
- Thick Map Proposals Presentations and Review - GL, GW, JJB, KW

1:30 - 3:45 PM FIELDWORK

- Data Collection for Proposed Thick Base Maps and Fotonovelas

4:00 - 5:00 PM TEAMWORK

- Desk Crits of Thick Base Maps & Fotonovelas @ Art Division - GL, GW, JJB, KW

Day 4. Monday, September 23: Visualizing Space & Place

All students should bring laptops with Adobe Photoshop for today's workshop. Please pin-up in-progress Thick Maps before the morning lecture.

MORNING @ UCLA

10:00 - 11:00 LECTURE & DISCUSSION

- The Mapping Impulse: The Work of Mark Bradford, Julie Mehretu, Enrique Chagoya, ADOBE LA - GL

11:00 - 12:00 LECTURE

- Thick Mapping: Hypercities - TP

12:00 - 1:00 PM LUNCH - Catering provided by Mama Hong's Vietnamese Kitchen

AFTERNOON @ UCLA

1:15 - 3:15 WORKSHOPS

- *Fotonovelas* Workshop - LH
- Photoshop Demo and Workshop - KW

3:15 - 5:00 TEAMWORK

- Studio and Desk Crits- Integrating Fotonovelas with Thick Base Map - GL, GW, JJB, KW

Day 5. Tuesday, September 24: Putting It All Together

Teams should ensure that they have at least two members present this day for fieldwork and pin up.

MORNING @ WL/MP Art Division - Studio

10:00 - 10:30 AM CHECK-IN

- Students Report on Progress and Q&A - GL, GW, JJB, KW

10:30 - 1:00 PM FIELDWORK

- Fieldwork in Westlake/MacArthur Park

1:00 -1:45 PM LUNCH @ Art Division - Studio

- Catering provided by Los Molcajetes

AFTERNOON @ WL/MP Art Division - Studio

1:45 - 2:45 PM REVIEWS

- Final Pin-up, Gallery Walk, Recommendations for Final Presentation - GL, GW, JJB, KW

2:45 - 5:00 PM FIELDWORK or TEAMWORK

- Further Fieldwork in Westlake (if needed)
- Desk Crits for Teams @ Art Division - GL, GW, JJB, KW
- Return to UCLA (to continue work if needed)

Day 6. Wednesday, September 25: Final Review

MORNING @ UCLA

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM- TEAMWORK

- Final Revision and Assembly of Projects

12:00 - 1:00 PM LUNCH @ UCLA

AFTERNOON @ UCLA

1:00 - 4:30 PM PRESENTATIONS

- DUE ASSIGNMENT 2 - PARTS B, C, D Thick Base Maps, Fotonovelas, Staged Group Photograph
- Final Project Presentations - GL/GW/JJB/KW

4:30 - 5:00 PM CLOSING DEBRIEF - DC/GL/GW/JJB

5:00 - onwards CELEBRATION

- Dinner Catered by Pinches Tacos

Friday, September 27: Return CLICC Laptops

- If you have not already done so, **return CLICC laptops to Powell Library by 4:00 PM.** The CLICC Lab will charge late fees for any materials returned after this time.