

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3624**DEAN Decision**

Approved

Date

01/22/2026

Is this course intracollegiate or intercollegiate?

Intracollegiate

ACADEMIC PROGRAM Decision

Approved

Date

01/15/2026

Type the name of your committee

Study Abroad Committee

SCHOOL EPC Decision

Approved

Date

02/12/2026

GEC Decision

Approved

Date

04/10/2026

APIRC Decision

Approved

Date

04/17/2026

Begin Form**Today's Date**

01/22/2026

Your Name:

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Jane Nichols

Your Email:jnichols@highpoint.edu**Are you a Department Chair?**

Yes

By checking below, I certify that my department chair has seen and approved the new course that I am proposing.

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Arts & Design

When should this proposal take effect?

Spring 2027

Information for the Registrar**Choose the department designator from the list below.**

ITG

Proposed Course Number?

3018

Is this course cross listed?

Yes

Choose the second department designator for your proposed course from the list below.

FMD

Choose the third (if needed) department designator for your proposed course from the list below.

INT

Does this course replace a current course?

No

What is the title of the new course?

Biophilic Design in Barcelona

Write the catalog description of your proposed course:

This interdisciplinary course immerses students in the principles and applications of biophilic design within the landscape of Barcelona, Spain. Through lectures, site visits, workshops, and collaborative studio projects, students will explore how nature-inspired design influences art, architecture, interior environments, fashion and visual merchandising. The course emphasizes

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sustainability, cultural heritage and innovation, encouraging students to integrate biomorphic forms, organic materials, and ecological thinking into creative design practices.

How many credit hours will this course be?

4

How will the course be graded?

Pass/Fail

Please select the course repeat option for this course:

Repeatable for credit once

What is the offering cycle for this course?

Alternate years

Does your course have any prerequisites?

No

Is this new course being proposed because of a new or revised major or minor proposal?

No

Any other comments for the Registrar at this time?

None

Gen Ed and Academic Programs**Is this course part of Gen Ed?**

- Yes

Does your course count in the general education core (one of the core classes that cannot be double-dipped in your major or minor)?

None of the above

Does your course count in any general education categories that can be double-dipped in the core or in a major/minor?

- Integrative Learning
- Experiential Learning

Please provide a rationale for how your course is integrative. Please explain how you weave in different disciplines or fields of study. If your course is housed within one discipline, please explain how the epistemologies you integrate within the course are different from one another.

The course leverages Barcelona's rich cultural and design heritage to provide immersive, hands-on experiences that reinforce biophilic principles and interdisciplinary collaboration. Students will engage in curated site visits, workshops, and industry interactions that connect theory to practice across architecture, interiors, fashion and visual merchandising. The course will be

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taught by a faculty member from interior design and faculty member from fashion/visual merchandising. Each faculty will use theoretical constructs from their disciplines, and facilitate students in integrating best practices from both disciplines in their exploration, ideation, discovery and application work.

Will this course be team-taught?

Yes

Who will team-teach with you and which department / school do they work in?

Jane Nichols, Interior Design & Lisa Williams, Fashion Merchandising

Does this course count towards a major or a minor?

No, it does not count toward any particular major or minor

Is this course part of an academic program?

- Study Abroad

Have you received approval from the appropriate academic program committee to move forward with this proposal?

Yes

Does this course include any community engagement?

No

Does this course participate in the GoGlobal Program?

Yes

Information for Curriculum Review**Rationale and evidence for new course's consistency with departmental mission:**

This course immerses students in a dynamic, experiential learning environment designed to prepare them for the complexities of an interconnected world. Rooted in a process steeped in experimentation and driven by a continuous cycle of reflection, action, and assessment, students learn to think critically and iteratively as they refine their ideas and deepen their understanding. Through this intentional approach, students develop the ability to recognize conceptual connections among multifaceted and complex problems—an essential skill in a global landscape defined by diverse perspectives. This capacity to synthesize information across disciplines empowers them to generate innovative, creative solutions that respond thoughtfully to contemporary challenges. They are encouraged to investigate ideas through multiple lenses, translating form, meaning, and visual language into expressive collaborative work. This process not only strengthens their creative confidence but also reinforces their ability to contribute meaningfully within a global, diverse, and interconnected society.

List all student learning outcomes for this course.

1. Explain biophilic design principles and their psychological, aesthetic and environmental benefits.
2. Identify historical and cultural influences, analyze Barcelona's architectural and artistic movements.
3. Apply organic form and material exploration to design concepts in interiors, lighting, apparel and merchandising.
4. Investigate textile, tapestry, mosaic, and tile traditions as material and cultural expressions.
5. Evaluate Spanish fashion trends and sustainability strategies, connecting them to global design narratives.
6. Collaborate across interior design and fashion merchandising disciplines to produce integrated design solutions in physical and

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virtual environments.

7. Embrace the connections between the built and natural environment.

List any units or content areas that will be required for all sections of this course.

TOPIC: Biophilia, biomimicry, nature-based principles and their role in human well-being and universal wellness. Key thinkers, origins, research and trends.

TOPIC: Psychological and environmental benefits of nature-integrated design.

TOPIC: Overview of Barcelona's cultural and artistic heritage.

TOPIC: Translating natural patterns into architecture, interiors and apparel design.

TOPIC: Exploring Barcelona's iconic tilework, mosaic, and sustainable applications.

TOPIC: Material application of texture and lighting.

TOPIC: Artistic movements influencing design aesthetics.

TOPIC: Gaudi's influence

TOPIC: Catalan Modernisme and Visual merchandising

TOPIC: Art as inspiration for fashion: Catalan artists

TOPIC: Barcelona and Spanish fashion heritage, emerging designers.

TOPIC: Sustainable textile practices and circular fashion design.

TOPIC: Textile and local production.

TOPIC: Branded Spaces, visual merchandising and digital visualization tools

TOPIC: Key Retail Players

TOPIC: Sustainability and Visual Merchandising Integration

List any assignments, tests, or other assessments that will be required for all sections of this course.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT:

Phase I: Project Prep, Group synthesis, Field Research

Phase II: Site visits, Project development, Guided Studio work

Phase III: Project presentations of sustainable retail concept(s)

Phase IV: Reflection and Evaluation (throughout course, journaling and discussion)

List any readings or other materials that will be required for all sections of this course.

Akgathidi, A. 2017. Biomorphic Structures.

Benyus, J. 2002. Biomimicry.

Browning, W.D., et al. 2024. 14 Patterns of Biophilic Design by Terrapin Green.

Keller, S. 2013. Biophilic Design.

Orr, D. 2002. The Nature of Design.

Rocca, A. 2007. Natural Architecture.

Brown, S. Eco-fashion and Sustainability.

Graves, L.F. Little Book of Barcelona Style.

Garces, M.T. Fashioning Spain

Papanek, V. The Green Imperative: Ecology and Ethics in Design and Architecture.

List any course policies that will be required for all sections of this course.

Full attendance in class, full attendance in cultural activities and weekend excursions.

Group participation and individual contributions in each Phase of Project.

Participation in discussions, daily journaled reflections, annotated photo journal.

Comply with all requirements of Global Education and HPU Honor Code.

If you would like to specify how requirements for contact hours must be met for all sections of this course, please indicate below. (e.g., if any experiential learning activities will replace seat time)

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Contact hours defined per day. Exceeds 100 hours.

Is there anything else the reviewing parties should know about this new course proposal that hasn't been addressed?

Course will be an ITG, serve as Experiential Learning and it has been approved by Study Abroad. It will also count toward a major elective for Fashion Merchandising.

Sample Syllabus

- [Nichols-BIOPHILIC-DESIGN-IN-BARCELONA-PROPOSAL-3-23-26.docx](#)