

Course title: Barcelona. The City and its History

Language of instruction: English

Professor: Meritxell Ferrer Martín

Professor's contact and office hours: Tuesday, 15.00-16.00h (20.257)

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credit: 6 ECTS credits

Course prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course

Language requirements:

Recommended level in the European Framework B2 (or equivalent : Cambridge Certificate if the teaching language is English, DELE or 3 semesters in the case of Spanish)

Course focus and approach:

This is a course that emphasizes the historical development of Barcelona from Pre-Roman times until nowadays. Although this course has a dominant historical approximation, other disciplines will be also considered, such as art, literature, architecture and urbanism.

Course description:

Once labeled by Newsweek magazine as the “coolest city in Europe”, Barcelona enjoys the reputation of a cosmopolitan city with a great international projection. Like all places, however, it is not void of peculiarities and contradictions. Behind a glossy and tourist-friendly façade, the city has a complex history. This course introduces the student to the city of Barcelona by studying its past and analyzing its present. This interdisciplinary course covers subject in history, geography, art, architecture, and urban planning. Material includes images, maps, academic and literary texts, videos, field studies, and documentaries. We will also discuss issues relevant to people living within the city of Barcelona today.

Learning objectives:

By the end of the course, the student:

- Will have acquired a survey knowledge of the history of Barcelona from pre-Roman times to the present.
- Will have received an introduction to the basic elements of urban history with an emphasis on the transformation of the physical environment.
- Will be versed in the historical origins of the challenges facing city residents in Barcelona today.

Course workload:

The course is divided into lectures, discussions, and field studies. Students should be prepared to read between 50 to 150 pages per week.

Teaching methodology:

The course includes both lectures and field studies. During the field studies, students are expected to take notes and treat field studies as a normal lecture class.

Assessment criteria:

- Midterm exam: 30%
- Final exam: 30%
- Class participation: 15%
- Term paper (and paper draft): 25%

BaPIS absence policy:

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student's final grade as follows:

| Absences | Penalization |
|---------------------------|---|
| Up to two (2) absences | No penalization |
| Three (3) absences | 1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale) |
| Four (4) absences | 2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale) |
| Five (5) absences or more | The student receives an INCOMPLETE ("NO PRESENTADO") for the course |

The BaPIS attendance policy does not make a distinction between justified and unjustified absences. All absences—whether due to common short-term illnesses or personal reasons—are counted toward the total amount and cannot be excused. Therefore, students are responsible for managing all their absences.

Only in cases of longer absences—such as hospitalization, prolonged illness, traumatic events, or other exceptional situations—will absences be considered for exceptions with appropriate documentation. The Academic Director will review these cases on an individual basis.

Students must inform the Instructor and the International Programs Office promptly via email if serious circumstances arise.

Classroom norms:

- No food or drink is permitted in class.
- No mobile phones, texting, internet surfing, chatting, etc.
- There will be a ten-minute break during the class.
- Students must come to class fully prepared.
- Students must come to class dressed appropriately

Weekly schedule:**WEEK 1****1. Introduction to the course**

1. Introduction to the syllabus, course requirements and method of assessment
2. Geography of Barcelona and Catalonia.

1. The Barcelona Model: Urban Renaissance and Multiculturalism

1. The Olympic Games, the Forum and 22@ Project
2. Linguistic Normalization and diversity
3. Immigration

Reading:

Rossi, M. 2004. "The Barcelona Model". *Newsweek International*.

Blanco, I. 2012. "Does Barcelona Model Really Exist? Periods, Territories and Actors in the Process of Urban Transformation". *Local Government Studies* 35 (2): 187-210.

WEEK 2**2. From Barcino to Basiluna: The Roman and Medieval origins**

1. Before Barcino: Iberians, Greeks and Phoenicians
2. Barcino: The Roman City
3. Barsiluna: Visigoths, Muslims and Franks

Reading:

Sanmartí, J. 2009. "From the Archaic States to Romanization: a Historical and Evolutionary Perspective on the Iberians", *Catalan Historical Review*: 9-32.

WEEK 3**3. The Medieval City**

1. Barchinona: The Capital of Catalonia
2. Society, Politics and Trade in a Mediterranean Empire
3. The Crisis in the 14th and 15th Centuries: Famines, Plagues and Civil War

Reading:

Freedman, P. 1988. "Cowardice, Heroism, and the Legendary Origins of Catalonia", *Past and Present* 121: 3-28.

WEEK 4

4. **¿Decadency or Transformation? Barcelona under the Habsburg**

1. Barcelona rules by Castilla: Political Institutions
2. The Influence of Castilla: Language, Culture and Society

Reading:

MONTER, W. 1990. "The Castilian Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon", *Frontiers of Heresy*, 3-28.

WEEK 5.

5. **¿Repression or Renaissance? Barcelona under the Borbons**

1. Wars with Castilla: From Harvesters' War (1640-1659) to the Succession War (1702-1714)
2. A New Political Order: The *Nueva Planta* Decree (1716)

Reading:

ALCOBERRO, A. 2010. "The War of the Spanish Succession in the Catalan-Speaking Lands", *Catalan Historical Review*: 69-86.

WEEK 6.

3. The Construction of the Citadel and the Transformation of the City
 - Midterm exam

WEEK 7

6. **The Industrial City: The Mediterranean Manchester**

1. Barcelona in America
2. Agrarian, Economical and Political Revolution
3. "¡Abajo las murallas!"

Reading:

FERRER, LL. 2012. "The diverse growth of 18th century Catalonia: Proto-industrialization?", *Catalan Historical Review*: 67-84.

WEEK 8.

7. **A Cosmopolitan City: The Mediterranean Paris**

1. Urban renovation: The Eixample
2. Cultural Renovation: The Renaixença and the Modernisme
3. Universal Renovation: 1888 and 1929 Exhibitions

Reading:

JACOBSEN, S. 2011. "Interpreting Municipal Celebrations of Nation and Empire: The Barcelona Universal Exhibition of 1888", in *Nationalism and the Reshaping of Urban Communities in Europe*, 74-109.

WEEK 9.

8. The Revolution of the Workers: Second Republic and Civil War

1. The Emergence of Anarchism
2. The War at Home
3. Exile, Censorship, and Immigration

Reading:

ABELLÓ, T. 2010. "Anarchism in the Catalan-speaking countries: between syndicalism and propaganda (1868-1931)", *Catalan Historical Review*: 87-102.

WEEK 10.

9. ¿An Occupied City? Barcelona and Francoism

1. A New Urban Growth

10. The Democratic City

1. From the Transition to the Democracy
2. Current Politics, Society and Economy

Reading:

Required readings:

ABELLÓ, T. 2010. "Anarchism in the Catalan-speaking countries: between syndicalism and propaganda (1868-1931)", *Catalan Historical Review*: 87-102.

ALCOBERRO, A. 2010. "The War of the Spanish Succession in the Catalan-Speaking Lands", *Catalan Historical Review*: 69-86.

BLANCO, I. 2012. "Does Barcelona Model Really Exist? Periods, Territories and Actors in the Process of Urban Transformation", *Local Government Studies* 35 (2): 187-210.

FERRER, Ll. 2012. "The diverse growth of 18th century Catalonia: Proto-industrialization?", *Catalan Historical Review*: 67-84.

FREEDMAN, P. 1988. "Cowardice, Heroism, and the Legendary Origins of Catalonia", *Past and Present* 121: 3-28.

JACOBSEN, J. 2011. "Interpreting Municipal Celebrations of Nation and Empire: The Barcelona Universal Exhibition of 1888", in *Nationalism and the Reshaping of Urban Communities in Europe*, 74-109.

MIR, C. 2008. The Francoist Repression in the Catalan Countries, *Catalan Historical Review*: 133-147.

MONTER, W. 1990. "The Castilian Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon", *Frontiers of Heresy*: 3-28.

ROSSI, M. 2004. "The Barcelona Model" *Newsweek International*.

SANMARTÍ, J. 2009. "From the Archaic States to Romanization: a Historical and Evolutionary Perspective on the Iberians", *Catalan Historical Review*: 9-32.

Recommended readings:

AMELANG, J. 1986. *Honored Citizens of Barcelona. Patrician Culture and Class Relations* (1490-1714). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

BENSCH, S. 1995. *Barcelona and its Rulers, 1096-1291*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

FERNÁNDEZ-ARMESTO, F. 1991. *Barcelona: A Thousand Years of the City's Past*. London: Sinclair-Stevenson.

HERNÁNDEZ, F. XAVIER. 2007. *The History of Catalonia*. Barcelona: Rafel Dalmau.

HUGHES, R. 1992. *Barcelona*. New York: Vintage.

RESINA, J. R. 2001. *Barcelona's Vocation of Modernity: Rise and Decline of a Modern Image*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

SMITH, A. 2002. *Red Barcelona: Social Protest and Labour Mobilization in the Twentieth Century*. London: Routledge.

THOMSON, J. K. J. 1992. *A Distinctive Industrialization: Cotton in Barcelona, 1728-1832*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

TOIBIN, C. 1990. *Homage to Barcelona*. London: Simon & Schuster.

VV.AA. 1985. *A City in war: American views on Barcelona and the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39*. James W. Cortada (Ed.). Wilmington Scholarly Resources.

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