

Course Title: *Barcelona: The City and Its History*

Language of Instruction: English

Professor: Pol Dalmau (pol.dalmau@upf.edu)

Schedule: Tuesdays (Room 20.101) and Thursdays (Room 20.023), 12:30 to 14:30h

Group: 2

Professor's Contact and Office Hours: Thursday, 17:00-18:00 h. or by appointment.

Course Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credit: 3 US Credits / 6 ECTS credits

Course Prerequisites: None

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 an interdisciplinary course that provides a general survey of the history of Barcelona from the Iberian to present times.

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. Materials include 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 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, oral presentations, and field studies. Students should be prepared to read between 50 and 150 pages per week.

Teaching methodology:

The course includes both face-to-face lectures and field studies. Two-hour class sessions are normally divided into one-hour lecture and one-hour seminar. During field studies, students are expected to take notes and treat field studies as a normal lecture class.

At this moment, we can tell you that teaching is planned face-to face as long as the health conditions allow it. But given the situation, we will keep you informed of any developments that may occur. We recommend that you consult the website:

<https://www.upf.edu/web/focus/coronavirus> in order to follow the news.

Assessment criteria:

Class Participation: 15 percent

Class Presentation: 15 percent

3 essays (two-pages) fieldtrips: 30 percent (10 percent each)

Final Exam: 40 percent

The "Final Exam" will consist of essay, short answer, and multiple-choice questions.

BaPIS absence policy:

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. The impact of absences on the final grade is 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 for the course

The BaPIS attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency, etc.) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the BaPIS.

Classroom Norms:

- No food or drink is permitted.
- 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.

Field Studies:

Each semester, the professor will choose a select number of field studies (3) from the following list: City History Museum; Medieval Barcelona Walking Tour; Maritime Museum; World Exhibition of 1888 (Ciudadella Park); World Exhibition of 1929 (Montjuïc); Civil War Tour including bomb shelters; 22@ project and recent renovations.

Weekly Schedule:

Please note that all readings can be found in the course webpage at the **Aula Global** (<https://aulaglobal.upf.edu/>).

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

This introductory week will provide logistical and background information. We will go over the course contents and requirements, and review the geography and political situation of Barcelona within Catalonia, Spain, Europe, and the Mediterranean and Atlantic worlds.

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9 January: Overview of course contents and requirements. No reading.

11 January: Barcelona in Catalonia, Spain, Europe, and the Atlantic and Mediterranean worlds

Reading: Gary McDonogh and Sergi Martínez-Rigol, "The evolution of a Mediterranean city", in *Barcelona* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018), 17-25.

Reading: Mellissa Rossi, "The Barcelona Model," *Newsweek International* (2 February 2004), 1-3.

WEEK 2: THE BARCELONA MODEL

This week will overview the history of the Barcelona Model from the Spanish Transition to Democracy (1976-1982) to the present. We will focus on the redefining of urban space, and the marketing of the city in the age of mass tourism.

16 January:

Reading: Stephen Jacobson, "The Barcelona Model: A Historical Reflection", in *Mirando desde el puente. Estudios en homenaje al profesor James S. Amelang*, ed. F. Andrés, M. Hernández y S. Martínez (Madrid: UAM, 2019), 379-390.

Reading: Francisco Javier Monclús, "Barcelona 1992," in *Olympic Cities, Agendas, Planning, and the Worlds' Games (1896-2006)* (London: Routledge 2013), 268-286.

18 January:

Reading: Lawrence A. Herzog, "'City of Architects': Public Space and the Resurgence of Barcelona" in *Return to the Center: Culture, Public Space, and City Building in the Global Era*, pp. 91-104.

Reading: Antoni Luna-Garcia, "Just another Coffee! Milking the Barcelona Model, Marketing a Global Image, and the Restoration of Local Identities," in *Consuming the Entrepreneurial City: Image, Memory, Spectacle*, pp. 143-160.

WEEK 3: THE BARCELONA MODEL QUESTIONED

This week we will finish up discussing the Barcelona Model, and examine the prejudicial consequences of mass tourism and the inequalities generated by globalization. As Barcelona has become increasingly attractive to visitors and investors, local residents have lamented the erosion of neighborhoods and identities. We will also give a voice to those who have been excluded from the benefits of the model, and track the stresses caused by globalization, urban poverty, and immigration.

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23 January: The Barcelona model questioned

Movie: in class, we will view the movie: Alejandro González Iñárritu, *Biutiful* (2010), 2 hours, 28 minutes. **The class will start at 11:50.**

25 January: Immigrants in the Tourist City

Reading: Benjamin Fraser, "A Biutiful City: Alejandro González Iñárritu's Filmic Critique of 'The Barcelona Model,'" *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas*, v. 9, no. 2 (2012): 19-34.

Reading: Mari Paz Balibrea, "Urbanism, Culture, and the Post-Industrial city: Challenging the 'Barcelona Model,'" in *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*, 2, no. 2 (2001): 187-210.

WEEK 4: THE FOUNDATIONS OF BARCELONA

This week we will begin to delve into the foundations of the city's past during the Roman period with a visit to the Museu d'Història de la Ciutat.

30 January: The Origins of Barcelona

Reading: Reading: H. Rosi Song and Anna Riera, "Medieval Cooking in Barcelona" in: *A Taste of Barcelona: The History of Catalan Cooking and Eating* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), 37-67.

1 February (Room 20.023): **Field Study (1): Visit to the "Museu d'Història de la Ciutat of Barcelona"**. <http://www.museuhistoria.bcn.es>.

WEEK 5: THE MEDIEVAL CITY

6 February: The Medieval City, with guest speaker Prof. Carolina Obradors

Reading: Gary McDonogh and Sergi Martínez-Rigol, "Barcelona the Capital (1000-1500)", in *Barcelona* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018), 54-95.

Reading: Agustí Còcola Gant, "The Invention of the Barcelona Gothic Quarter," *Journal of Heritage Tourism* 9, no. 1 (2014): 18-34.

8 February: **Walking Tour of Medieval Barcelona** (no essay required)

WEEK 6: CATALAN SEPARATISM AND THE BORN CULTURAL CENTRE

We will explore the historical background to Catalan separatism by discussing the integration of medieval Catalonia into Spain and the defeat of Catalonia in the War of Spanish Succession (1702-1716). We will pay particular attention to how this defeat has been commemorated and remembered by visiting the Born Centre for Culture and Memory. We will explore how Catalan separatists have renovated the market in order to popularize their political agenda, and also how this has turned into a contested space for those who have chosen to question this political and historic narrative.

13 February: Early Modern Barcelona

Reading: J.H. Elliott, "Castile and Aragon" and "The Ordered Society," in *The Revolt of the Catalans: A Study in the Decline of Spain, 1598-1640*, pp. 1-48;

Reading: Colin Breen, Sara McDowell, Gemma Reid, and Wes Forsythe, "Heritage and Separatism in Barcelona: The Case of El Born Cultural Centre," *Journal of Heritage Studies*, 22, no. 6 (2016), 434-443.

15 February: **Field Study (2). Visit to the Born Centre for Culture and Memory** (<https://elbornculturaimemoria.barcelona.cat/en/the-center/>). Note: the visit will start at **16h**.

WEEK 7: THE INDUSTRIAL CITY

This week will be dedicated to the "industrial city" by focusing on the Eixample and the Raval neighborhoods. We will analyze the major urban transformations of the industrial age -- the tearing down of the medieval walls and creation of the "Eixample" quarter. This successful urban plan relieved demographic pressure on the city center and constructed a new neighborhood in the interest of hygiene and transport.

20 February: Industrialization and the Eixample Quarter

Reading: Joan Ramon Resina, "The Bourgeois City," in *Barcelona's Vocation of Modernity: Rise and Decline of an Urban Image* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008), 10-62.

22 February: Industrialization and the Raval Quarter

Reading: Gary McDonogh and Sergi Martínez-Rigol, "The Industrial City (1800-1900)," in *Barcelona* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018), 128-164.

Reading: Chris Ealham, "An Imagined Geography: Ideology, Urban Space, and Protest in the Creation of Barcelona's 'Chinatown', c.1835-1936," *International Review of Social History* 50 (2005): 373-397.

WEEK 8: THE COSMOPOLITAN CITY

This week will be dedicated to the Barcelona during the period of the cosmopolitan city. This period began with the city's first "mega-event," the World's Fair of 1888. We will explore the beginning of modernism by paying specific attention to the architecture of Lluís Domènech i Montaner. We will also examine art and architecture during the period of high modernism by focusing on Picasso, Miró, Gaudí, and their colleagues and disciples.

27 February: The World's Fair of 1888

Reading: Stephen Jacobson, "Interpreting Municipal Celebrations of Nation and Empire: The Barcelona Universal Exhibition of 1888," in *Nationalism and the Reshaping of Urban Communities*, ed. W. Whyte and O. Zimmer (Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011), 74-109.

1 March: High Modernism

Reading: Colm Toibin, "A dream of Gaudí", "Picasso's Quarter," and "Miró in Barcelona" in *Homage to Barcelona* (London: Simon & Schuster, 1990), 50-95.

WEEK 9: THE REVOLUTIONARY CITY: THE SECOND REPUBLIC (1931-36)

06 March: Chris Ealham, "The Making of a Divided City" and "Mapping the Working-Class City" in *Class, Culture, and Conflict in Barcelona, 1898-1937*, 1-53.

08 March: **Field study (3). "Bomb shelter in Poble Sec".**

<http://museuhistoria.bcn.cat/ca/node/15>

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WEEK 10: THE CIVIL WAR (1936-1939)

13 March: The Civil War (1936-39).

Reading: Temma Kaplan. *Red City, Blue Period: Social Movements in Picasso's Barcelona*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993, pp. 165-187.

15 March: **Final exam.**

WEEK 11: THE FRANCO DICTATORSHIP (1940-75) AND THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY

20 March: Catalunya and the dictatorship of Francisco Franco (online class)

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Required Readings: The professor will assemble a course pack consisting of a selection of chapters from the following sources. They will be supplemented with topical readings from contemporary periodicals.

Balibrea, Mari Paz. "Urbanism, Culture, and the Post-Industrial city: Challenging the 'Barcelona Model,'" *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*, 2, no. 2 (2001): 187-210.

Blanco, Ismael. "Does a Barcelona Model Really Exist? Periods, Territories and Actors in the Process of Urban Transformation," *Local Government Studies*, 35, no. 3 (2009): 255-369.

Degen, Mónica and Marisol García. "The Transformation of the Barcelona Model: An Analysis of Culture, Urban Regeneration, and Governance," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 36.5 (2012): 1022-138.

Ealham, Chris. *Class, Culture, and Conflict in Barcelona, 1898-1937*. London: Routledge, 2005.

Elliott, J.H. *The Revolt of the Catalans: A Study in the Decline of Spain, 1598-1640*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963.

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

Herzog, Lawrence A. "'City of Architects': Public Spaces and the Resurgence of Barcelona," in *Culture, Public Space, and City Building in a Global Era*, pp. 4-14. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006.

Hughes, Robert. *Barcelona*. New York: Vintage, 1992.

Jacobson, Stephen. "Interpreting Municipal Celebrations of Nation and Empire: The Barcelona Universal Exhibition of 1888," in *Nationalism and the Reshaping of Urban Communities in Europe, 1848-1914*, ed. William Whyte and Oliver Zimmer, pp. 74-109. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.

Luna-Garcia, Antoni. "Just another Coffee! Milking the Barcelona Model, Marketing a Global Image, and the Restoration of Local Identities," in *Consuming the Entrepreneurial City: Image, Memory, Spectacle*, ed. Anne M. Cronin and Kevin Hetherington, pp. 143-160. London: Routledge, 2007.

Monter, William. *Frontiers of Heresy: The Spanish Inquisition from Basque Lands to Sicily*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Nirenberg, David. *Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Planas, Sílvia and Manuel Forcano, *A History of Jewish Catalonia: The Life and Death of Jewish Communities in Medieval Catalonia*. Girona: Ajuntament de Girona, 2009.

Rossi, Mellisa. "The Barcelona Model," *Newsweek International*, 2 February 2004.

Tóibin, Colm. *Homage to Barcelona*. London: Simon & Schuster, 1990.

Recommended bibliography:

Students are encouraged to consult the following sources on their own.

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

Bensch, Stephen P. *Barcelona and its Rulers, 1096-1291*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Bisson, Thomas N. *Tormented Voices: Power, Crisis, and Humanity in Rural Catalonia, 1140-1200*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Corteguera, Luis. *For the Common Good: Popular Politics in Barcelona, 1580-1640*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002.

Davidson, Robert A. *Jazz Age Barcelona*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Fernández-Armesto, Felipe. *Barcelona. A Thousand Years of the City's Past*. London: Sinclair-Stevenson, 1991.

Hernández, F. Xavier. *The History of Catalonia*. Barcelona: Rafael Dalmau, 2007.

Kaplan, Temma. *Red City, Blue Period: Social Movements in Picasso's Barcelona*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

McDonogh, Gary W. *Good Families of Barcelona. A Social History of Power in the Industrial Era*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989.

McRoberts, Kenneth, *Catalonia: Nation Building without a State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Resina, Joan Ramon. *Barcelona's Vocation of Modernity: Rise and Decline of a Modern Image*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008.

Smith, Angel ed. *Red Barcelona: Social Protest and Labour Mobilization in the Twentieth Century*. London: Routledge, 2002.

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

Zapata-Barrero, Ricard. "Immigration, Self-Government and Management of Identity: The Catalan Case" in *The Long March to the West: 21st Century Migration in Europe and the Greater Mediterranean Area*, pp. 170-202. Ed. Michael Korinman and John Laughland. London: Vallentine, Mitchell and Co., 2007.

Syllabus last updated, December, 2023