

Course title: Barcelona, the City and its History

Language of instruction: English

Professor: Cornel-Peter Rodenbusch

Professor's contact and office hours:

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 Roman times to the present. Although a historical approach predominates in this course, other disciplines such as art, literature, architecture, and urbanism are also considered.

Course description:

Once called the "coolest city in Europe" by Newsweek magazine, Barcelona enjoys a reputation as a cosmopolitan city with a wide international appeal. But like all places, this city is not free of idiosyncrasies and contradictions. Behind a shiny and tourist-friendly facade, the city has a complex history. This course introduces students to the city of Barcelona by examining its past and analyzing its present.

This interdisciplinary course covers topics in history, geography, art, architecture, and urban planning. Material includes images, maps, scientific and literary texts, videos, field studies, and documentaries. We will also discuss topics relevant to the people who live in Barcelona today.

Learning objectives:

By the end of the course, students will:

- Have acquired an overview of the history of Barcelona from Roman times to the present.
- Have received an introduction to the basic elements of the city's history, focusing on the transformation of the physical environment.
- be familiar with the historical origins of the challenges facing Barcelona residents today.



Course workload: The course is divided into lectures, discussions, and field studies. Students should be prepared to read between 50 and 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 the field studies as a normal lecture.

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 distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Only absences for medical reasons will be considered justified absences. The student is deemed responsible to provide the necessary documentation. Other emergency situations will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the BaPIS.

The Instructor, the Academic Director and the Study Abroad Office should be informed by email without any delay.

Classroom norms:

- Food and drink are not allowed in class.
- After a one-hour session, students have a ten-minute break.
- Cell phones, texting, internet surfing, chatting, etc. are prohibited.
- Students must arrive to class fully prepared.
- Students must arrive to class in appropriate attire.

Weekly schedule:

A weekly or daily schedule should be prepared for each class session. The date is not required. Reading assignments for the week should be listed on this weekly plan.

WEEK 1

0. Introduction to the course

0.1. Introduction to the syllabus, course requirements and method of assessment

0.2. Geography introduction Spain, Catalonia & Barcelona.

1. Barcelona An Urban Topography (I)

1.1. Mapping Barcelona 19th to 13th century

1.2. Walls & Limitations

1.3. Seaside and Port

WEEK 2

2. Barcelona An Urban Topography (II)

2.1 Landmarks & Institutions

2.2. Modern Barcelona: The Olympic Games, the Forum and 22@ Project

2.3. The Barcelona Model: Urban Renaissance and Multiculturalism

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.

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

2.1. Barcino: The Roman City

2.2. Late Antiquity & Early Middle Ages: Visigoths, Muslims and Franks

2.3. Al-Andalus

WEEK 3

3. The Medieval City – Barcelona as a Capital

3.1. Barcelona in the Middle Ages – Political Institutions, Parishes & Guilds

3.2. People & Society

3.3. Laws, Customs & Festivities

Reading:

Riera, A. 2008. "James I and his Era. Brief Analysis of a Major Political and Cultural Inheritance", Catalan Historical Review, 1: 9-16.

WEEK 4

4. Barcelona under the Habsburg & The Golden Age of Spain

4.1. Barcelona ruled by Castile – The Creation of Spain

4.2. The Habsburgs and Barcelona

Reading:

Monter, W. 1990. "The Castilian Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon", *Frontiers of Heresy, The Spanish Inquisition from the Basque Lands to Sicily (Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History)*: 3-28.

WEEK 5

5. Bourbon Barcelona

5.1. Wars with Castile: From Harvesters' War (1640-1659) to the Spanish War of Succession (1702-1714).

5.2. A New Political Order: The Nueva Planta decrees (1716)

Reading:

Alcoberro, A. 2010. "The War of the Spanish Succession in the Catalan-Speaking Lands", *Catalan Historical Review*, 3: 69-86.

WEEK 6

5.3. The Construction of the Citadel and the Transformation of the City

- Midterm exam

WEEK 7

6. Barcelona: The Mediterranean Manchester

6.1. Barcelona in America

6.2. Agrarian, Economical and Political Revolution

6.3. "¡Abajo las murallas!"

Reading:

Ferrer, LL. 2012. "The diverse growth of 18th-century Catalonia: Proto-industrialisation?", *Catalan Historical Review*, 5: 67-84.

WEEK 8

7. The Mediterranean Paris & The Fire Rose

7.1. Secularization & Workers Culture

7.2. Renaixença & Dictatorship

7.3. Architecture & The Second Spanish Republic

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

8.1. Revolution & War

8.2. An international Affair

8.3. Loosing a Dream

Reading:

Abelló, T. 2010. "Anarchism in the Catalan-speaking countries: between syndicalism and propaganda (1868-1931)", *Catalan Historical Review*, 3: 87-102.

WEEK 10

9. Architecture of a Regime

9.1. Outlook and Consequences

Mir, M. 2008. "The Francoist Repression in the Catalan Countries", *Catalan Historical Review*: 133-147.

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-industrialisation?", *Catalan Historical Review*: 67-84.

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.

MIR, M. 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, The Spanish Inquisition from the Basque Lands to Sicily (Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History)*: 3-28.

RIERA, A. 2008. "James I and his Era. Brief Analysis of a Major Political and Cultural Inheritance", *Catalan Historical Review*, 1: 9-16.

Recommended bibliography:

- 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. 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.