

## Course Syllabus- Power and Passions: Barcelona through the lens of history

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Professor:** Josep Capdeferro and Cornel-Peter Rodenbusch

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**Course Contact Hours:** 15 hours

**Recommended Credit:** 2 ECTS credits

**Weeks:** 1

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Language Requirements:** None

**Course structure:** Seminar

**Course classification:** Introductory

### **Course Description:**

The course will deal on the history of medieval and modern Barcelona (13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries) from a popular and dynamic perspective: common people and their daily activity.

How did citizens work? What was the place of masters and apprentices within guilds? Who was in charge to supply wheat, meat or fish to town? Who was authorized to sell bread, vegetables and fruits? Were families organized in a strict or flexible way? What was happening if a wife was unloyal to her husband and vice versa? Which were the most popular parties and celebrations? Were Jews and Muslims religious ceremonies public and welcome? Who was allowed to prepare medicines? Drugs, tobacco, coffee, chocolate, were easily available or forbidden? Was it easy to play cards and other games? Even though Barcelona citizens were submitted to many legal, social and religious rules, did they manage to enjoy life? By the way... Who ruled citizens' lives? Apart from the local government, what other political institutions were settled in Barcelona?

### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of the course, the student:

- will have acquired survey knowledge of the complexity of urban societies
- will have received an introduction to the history of daily life
- will much better understand Barcelona, its urban structure, its monuments and its population

### **Course Workload**

The course will be based on some readings (around 100 pages per student); discussion in class; either a guided tour in the medieval Holy Cross Hospital or a visit at the permanent exhibition of the Born Cultural and Memory Center, close to the UPF.

### **Methods of Instruction:**

Students will be asked to do in pairs an oral presentation of papers or documents suggested by the lecturers.

### **Method of Assessment**

Class Participation: 25 percent

Oral presentation: 25 percent  
 Final Essay: 50 percent

**Absence Policy**

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

<b>Absences</b>	<b>Penalization</b>
Up to one (1) absence	2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale).
Two (2) absences	The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course

The BISS 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 UPF Barcelona International Summer School.

**Classroom Norms:**

- No food or drink is permitted.
- There will be a ten-minute break during the class.
- Students must come to class fully prepared.

**Course Contents:**

**Session 1. Ruling Barcelona** (Mo, July 3rd)

- Barcelona as a Playground: an Urban Topography
- Local Government: Council of One Hundred and councillors
- Food supplies, health and university

**Session 2. Working in Barcelona** (Tu, July 4th)

- Guilds on a map
- Guilds' organisation: masters, officers and apprentices
- Women working as (often better than!) men

**Session 3. Religiosity in Barcelona** (We, July 5th)

- Parishes on a map
- Overwhelming Roman Catholicism and marginalized minorities
- Churches, convents and monasteries
- For the soul's salvation!

**Session 4. Love, Sex and Leisure in Barcelona** (Th, July 6th)

- Marriages, just a matter of love?
- Adultery and penalties
- Prostitution and vices
- Leisures

**Session 5. Conflicts in Barcelona** (Fr, July 7th)

- Justice
- Rule of Law
- Common people fighting for their rights

**Required Readings:** The professor will indicate mandatory textbooks.

**Recommended bibliography:**

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

Albareda, Joaquim, “Political Participation in Catalonia: From Zenith to Suppression”, in Albareda, Joaquim and Herrero, Manuel (ed.), *Political Representation in the Ancien Régime*. NYC (USA)-Abingdon (UK): Routledge, 2019, chapter 13.

Amelang, James S., “Barristers and judges in early Modern Barcelona: The rise of a legal elite”, in *The American History Review*, vol. 89, no. 5 (Dec. 1984), pp. 1264-1284.

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

Amelang, James S. et ali., *Twelve walks through Barcelona's past Guidebook*. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona, 1992.

Capdeferro, Josep, “Humble but courageous. Modest women defending their rights in Early Modern Catalonia”, in Escartí, J. Vicent (ed.), *Biografies invisibles / Invisible biographies*, John Benjamins, 2021, pp. 91-103.

Corteguera, Luis R., “The painter who lost his hat”, in *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, vol. 29, no. 4 (Winter, 1998), pp. 1023-1042.

Kelleher, Marie A., "Eating from a Corrupted Table: Food Regulations and Civic Health in Barcelona's 'First Bad Year'", in *eHumanista*, no. 25 (2013), pp. 51-64.

Montagut, Tomàs de, “Barcelona, a Society and its Law: 11th-13th Centuries”, in *Catalan Historical Review*, no. 1 (2008), pp. 35-46.

Riera, Antoni, “James I and his Era. Brief Analysis of a Major Political and Cultural Inheritance”, in *Catalan Historical Review*, no. 1 (2008), pp. 9-16.

Sobrequés, Jaume, *History of Catalonia*. Barcelona: Ed. Base, 2007.

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