Course title: Modern Catalan Literature
Language of instruction: English
Professor: Pere Gifra and Marta Puxan.
Professor’s contact and office hours: Pere Gifra, Fridays 12-1 pm; Marta Puxan, Mondays 11-1pm
Course contact hours: 45
Recommended credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits
Course prerequisites: There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Language requirements: None

Course description: This course is an introduction to Catalan literature from the late 19th century to the present. Students will get a general knowledge of the conventionally defined literary periods of the Catalan literary tradition through readings and analyses of fiction, poetry and drama produced by authors like Àngel Guimerà, Jacint Verdaguer, Josep Carner, Víctor Català, Mercè Rodoreda, J. V. Foix, Gabriel Ferrater, Màrius Torres, Sergi Belbel, and Quim Monzó, among many others. In the analyses of the works we shall pay attention not just to the literary techniques employed by their authors corresponding with the literary conventions of their time but we shall also explore the social, historical, aesthetic, ideological, and political backgrounds that contributed to their creation. Some of the issues we will explore include the relationship between literature and other artistic forms, the concept of national and linguistic identity, the impact of the Civil War and the experience of exile, gender roles in Catalan literature, the use of the fantastic or the uncanny, and the function of collective memory.

Learning objectives: At the end of the term students will have learned, on the one hand, the basic trends in the development of Catalan literature, and will be familiarized, on the other hand, with the analysis of literary texts from a variety of critical perspectives. Moreover, they will have received a basic introduction to Catalan language and culture, which will enable them to better understand the social and cultural context of the city where they have spent their study abroad period.

Course workload: Students will have to read poetry, two plays, several short stories, and two novels. They will be asked to prepare the assigned texts prior to each class, and occasionally the instructors may supplement the readings with critical articles to be discussed in class. Most of the shorter texts will be available in a course pack, whereas the novels will have to be bought separately. During the
course the students will have to write two short assignments and take a midterm and a final exam.

**Teaching methodology:** The course will be taught in English and will combine introductory lectures, class discussions, and film screenings. The reading assignments will all be in English and the films in Catalan or Spanish (with English subtitles).

**Assessment criteria:** The final grade will take into account:
- Class participation (20%)
- A midterm exam (30%)
- Two short papers (20%)
- Final exam (30%). The content of the final exam does not include that of the midterm exam.

**Absence policy**
Attendance to class is mandatory and will be daily monitored by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student’s final grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>Two absences are permitted and not penalized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>-1 point out of final grade (on a /10 scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>-2 points out of final grade (on a /10 scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The HESP attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is responsible to manage his/her absences around the two permitted ones. Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency...) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the HESP.

**Classroom norms:**
- No food or drink is permitted in class
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one-hour session

**Weekly schedule**
**Unit 1:** Beginnings, or The Catalan Renaissance: Àngel Guimerà and Jacint Verdaguer (sessions 1-4).
- session 1 (Jan. 23): Introduction to the course
- session 2 (Jan. 25): Verdaguer, selected poems
- session 3 (Jan. 30): Guimerà, *Terra Baixa* [Martha of the Lowlands]
- session 4 (Feb. 1): Guimerà, *Terra Baixa*
Unit 2: Catalan Modernisme: Joan Maragall, Víctor Català (sessions 5-7).
- session 5 (Feb. 6): Modernisme: Joan Maragall
- session 6 (Feb. 8): Víctor Català, Solitud [Solitude]
- session 7 (Feb. 13): Víctor Català, Solitud [Solitude]

Unit 3: The Noucentisme and its Classical and Cosmopolitan Trends: Josep Carner (sessions 8-9)
- session 8 (Feb. 15): Introduction to the Noucentisme
- session 9 (Feb. 20): Josep Carner

Unit 4: The rupture of the Avantgardes:
- session 10 (Febr. 22): Salvat Papasselt and J. V. Foix

MIDTERM EXAM
- session 11 (Feb. 27)

Unit 5: The Spanish Civil War and the Experience of Exile. Prose: narrative and essay. Sessions 12-14
- session 12 (Feb. 29): Introduction to the narrative of the Civil War and the experience of exile.
- session 13 (March 5): Mirall Trençat
- session 14 (March 7): Mirall Trençat

Unit 6: The short story from Exile to Postmodernism: Pere Calders, Quim Monzó (sessions 15-16)
- session 15 (March 12): short stories by Pere Calders
- session 16 (March 14): short stories by Quim Monzó

Unit 7: New Directions in Catalan Poetry: Gabriel Ferrater and Màrius Torres (sessions 17-19)
- session 17 (March 19): introduction to contemporary Catalan Poets
- session 18 (March 21): Poems by Màrius Torres
- session 19 (March 26): Poems by Gabriel Ferrater

Unit 8: Introduction to Contemporary Theater: Sergi Belbel (sessions 19-21)
- session 19 (March 28): Introduction to Catalan Contemporary Theater
- session 20 (April 11): Sergi Belbel, Forasters (play and film discussion)

FINAL EXAM
- session 22 (April 16)

Last revision: April 2011
**Required readings:**
Victor Català’s *Solitude*, Mercè Rodoreda’s *A Broken Mirror*, and a selection of other texts to be read from a course pack for sale and from pdf files posted by the teachers in the class website.

**Recommended bibliography:**


**PRIMARY COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY (LITERARY WORKS)**


GUIMERÀ, Àngel, *Marta of the Lowlands* (available in a pdf document)
A selection of short stories and poems will be available in the coursepack.

**REINDER**: As this syllabus may be subject to changes, make sure you keep updating all the necessary information related to the course