Barcelona: the City and its History
Course syllabus

Language of Instruction: English
Course Meeting times and place: Tu-Thu 3.00-5.00 pm, room 20.173 at Building Jaume I
Professor: Lucía Conte. (lucia.conte@upf.edu)
Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm and by appointment.
Office number 21.304

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credit: 6 UPF credits-5 ECTS credits

Course Description

Barcelona is an attractive European and Mediterranean city known by its rich history and art heritage and by its welcoming attitude towards visitors. This course is an interdisciplinary approach to the history of Barcelona. Students will study the history of the city from its foundation (at the Roman times) up to the present day. Course content includes art, history, and urban planning, with a stronger focus on history. Urban development of Barcelona is analyzed using historical maps, videos, documentaries, and academic and literary texts. Understanding the past and present of Barcelona we will be able to forecast the future a Mediterranean reference city.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course the students:

- Will be able to recognise the main historical facts that have had an impact in the city of Barcelona.
- Will be able to analyse, criticise and explain the events that have occurred through the history of Barcelona.
- Will be able to generate written texts and to implement oral presentations about Barcelona and the Catalan Identity

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Requirements

The students are required to read a selection of texts and participate actively in the class. Each class session two-three students will briefly present to the class a summary on the day reading, commenting on the main points of it.
Students will have to prepare two exams (a midterm and a final) and will also conduct a research paper project on one of the topics covered by the course Barcelona: the City and its History.

**Methods of Instruction**

The course is structured in both lecture and on-site classes. Lecture classes will be conducted by the professor but students are expected to participate in a short class discussion on the readings assigned for each session or group of sessions. The on-site classes are field studies to museums or historical walking tours to places relevant to the course content. The field studies are a substantial part of the course and all students are required to attend them. They will also be a substantial part of the midterm and final exam.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

- Mid term exam: 30% (short questions and text/images commentary)
- Final exam: 30% (comprehensive)
- Class participation: 10%
- Term paper (and paper draft): 30%

**Absence Policy**

The UPF does not distinguish between an “excused” and “unexcused” absence. The absence policy is the following:
- 3 absences: Student loses one point out of ten.
- 4 absences: Student loses two points out of ten.
- **5 absences or more: Student receives an “Incomplete” for the course**

**Classroom Norms:**

- No food or drink is permitted in the classrooms
- Students will have a ten-minute break during each hour session
- Students must come to class prepared to participate fully in the day’s activities

**Weekly Schedule**

**WEEK 1**

**SESSION 1 Course description** (Tu, Sept. 28th)

- Syllabus, assessment and readings
- Introduction to “Barcelona: the city and its history”.
- The Natural Environment of the Barcelona Area

**Session 2 COLONIA BARCINO I** (Thu, Oct. 1st)
Pre-Roman Barcelona: Barkene
Barcino: the Roman foundation
The first city plan
The failure of the Roman Empire

**WEEK 2**

**Session 3 COLONIA BARCINO II** (Tu, Oct. 6th)
On-site class 1: Trip to Roman Barcelona: Walking tour and visit to City History Museum
**Meeting point**: Plaça de l’Àngel (Hotel Suizo). Metro L4-Jaume I at 3.15 pm

**Session 4 CATALONIA IS BORN** (Thu, Oct. 8th)
The Birth of the Catalan Nation
The Creation of the Crown of Aragon: the Mediterranean Trade
The birth of the political institutions

**WEEK 3**

**Session 5 MEDIEVAL BARCHINONA** (Tu, Oct. 13th)
On-site class 2: Medieval Art: the Catalan Gothic. Everyday life in Medieval Barchinona. Visit to City History Museum (second part) and walking tour of Gothic Area
**Meeting point**: Plaça de l’Àngel (Hotel Suizo). Metro L4-Jaume I at 3.15 pm

**Session 6 MEDIEVAL BARCHINONA** (Thu, Oct. 15th)
On-site class 3: Walking tour of the Call and the Born and Ribera Area
**Meeting point**: Plaça de l’Àngel (Hotel Suizo). Metro L4-Jaume I at 3.15 pm
WEEK 4

Session 7 Society and Crisis (Tu, Oct. 20th)
The Society in Medieval Barcelona
The crisis of the 14th C: war, plague and famine
The End of the Catalan Dinasty
The Crisis of the Mediterranean Trade

Session 8 The Citadel (Thu, Oct. 22nd)
Barcelona under the Citadel
The Raval and the Barceloneta

WEEK 5

Session 9 The Manchester of Southern Europe (Tu, Oct. 27th)
Barcelona in America
The industrial Revolution in Barcelona
Political and Social changes
The demolition of the city walls
Reading assignment Robert HUGHES, 1999. Chapter 5 (selected excerpts)

Session 10 Mid Term Exam (Thu, Oct. 29th)
Term paper due

WEEK 6

Session 11 The Example of Barcelona (Tu, Nov. 3rd)
Barcelona has to grow
Ildefons Cerdà and the Eixample Project

Session 12 A City of Marvels I (Thu, Nov. 5th)
The 1888 Universal Exhibition
The 1929 International Exhibition
The Cultural Revival
The Renaixença and the Modernisme
Antoni Gaudí and Barcelona

Colm Tóibín, “A Dream of Gaudí” and “Picasso’s Quarter” in *Homage to Barcelona*, 50-70

**WEEK 7**

**Session 13 A CITY OF MARVELS II** (Tu, Nov. 10th)
- **On-site class 4** the Hidden Courtyards of L’Eixample and the Block of Discord. Visit to Casa Batlló or La Pedrera
- **Meeting point:** Passeig de Gràcia/corner with Consell de Cent: Exit Metro L4-Passeig de Gràcia at 3.15 pm

**Session 14 A CITY IN WAR** (Thu, Nov. 12th)
- **The Spanish Republic in Barcelona**
- **The Spanish Civil War in Barcelona:** the war within the war.
- **Film viewing and class debate:** excerpts from *Land and Freedom*

**WEEK 8**

**Session 15 A CITY IN WAR II** (Tu, Nov. 17th)
- **Film viewing and class debate:** *Land and Freedom*

**Session 16 BARCELONA UNDER THE BOMBS** (Thu, Nov. 19th)
- **On-site class 5:** visit to the sceneries of the Spanish Civil War in Barcelona: Bomb Shelter 307.
- **Reading assignment** PUJADÓ, Judit, Chapter 2 “Passive defence and the construction of air raid shelters in Barcelona (1936-1939)”, *El refugi 307. La guerra civil i el Poble Sec*, pp.99-107
- **Meeting point:** Main entrance to Teatro Apolo, Av. Paral·lel/corner with c/Nou de la Rambla, right off the Exit Metro L3 or L2 Paral·lel

**WEEK 9**

**Session 17 BARCELONA UNDER FRANCO** (Tu, Nov. 24th)
- **The Dictatorship**
- Exile, famine, fear, censorship and immigration
- The suburban sprawl
- The Return of Democratic institutions
**Session 18 The New Barcelona** (Thu, Nov. 26th)
From grey to red, yellow, blue
The Barcelona’92 Olympic Games
The Forum of Cultures 2004 and the City of High Tech.
Film viewing: videos of the Forum construction process.
Analysis of the 22@project state of execution.

**Reading assignment** Melissa Rossi, "The Barcelona Model", Newsweek international (2 February 2004)
Oriol Bohigas, “Ten points for an urban methodology” in Transforming Barcelona, 91-96

**WEEK 10**

**Session 19 Barcelona’92** (Tu, Dec. 1st)
Film viewing and class debate: The Opening ceremony of Barcelona’92 Olympic Games.
**Reading assignment** 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, ed. Anne M. Cronin and Kevin Hetherington, pp. 143-160

**Session 20 Today’s Barcelona** (Thu, Dec. 3rd)
New Challenges to Barcelona
Course closure and evaluation
**Reading assignment**: 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.


**On-site class 6** to the 22@project and to the Forum Area. Visit to the exhibition Barcelona Projecta.
**Meeting point**: UPF Main entrance (between the two buildings).

**WEEK 11**

**Session 21** (Thu, Dec. 10th)
Course revision

**Session 22** (Tu, Dec. 15th)
**FINAL EXAM**

**COURSE IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:**
These deadlines are final. No project will be accepted after the deadline. All assignments have to be submitted in hard copy version to professor. No electronic versions will be accepted unless accompanied of a hard copy.
All students shall inform the professor on the paper topic no later than October 8th.

- Daily comment on reading: please check professor’s schedule posted on the intranet.
- October 6: on-site class 1: visit to the MUHBA
- October 8: inform professor of paper topic.
- October 13: on-site class 2: visit to Medieval Barcelona.
- October 15: on-site class 3: visit to Medieval Barcelona II and Jewish Quarter
- October 29: Midterm exam and first paper draft
- November 10: on-site class 4: visit to the Hidden Courtyards of L’Eixample and Modernisme
- November 16: on-site class 5: visit to an anti-air raid shelter from the Spanish Civil War.
- December 1 Deadline to hand final paper
- December 15: Final Exam

Last revision: September 2009

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Course reading pack prepared by professor

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**