Course Syllabus— Barcelona: the City and its History

**Language of instruction:** English  
**Professor:** Lucía Conte  
**Professor’s contact and office hours:** To be announced  
**Course contact hours:** 45  
**Recommended credit:** 6 UPF credits-5 ECTS credits  
**Course prerequisites:** None  
**Language requirements:** None

**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 without its complexities 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:**  
At the end of the course, the student:

- will have acquired 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, discussions, and field studies. Students should be prepared to read between 50 to 150 pages per week.

**Methods of instruction:**  
The course includes both 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.
Method of assessment:
Class Participation: 10 percent
Paper/Journal: 30 percent
Midterm Exam: 30 percent
Final Exam: 30 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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
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The HESP 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 HESP.

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.

Field studies:
Each semester, the professor will choose a select number of field studies from the following list: City History Museum; Medieval Barcelona Walking Tours (Born, Ribera, Gothic Quarter, Jewish Quarter or Raval); Maritime Museum; Modernist Barcelona (Pedrera, Casa Batlló or Palau de la Música); World Exhibition of 1888 (Ciutadella Park); World Exhibition of 1929 (Montjüic); Civil War Tour including bomb shelters; 22@ project and recent renovations.

Course Contents:

0.0. Introduction to Course
0.1. Review of Syllabus, Course Requirements, and Classroom Norms
0.2. Geography of Barcelona and Catalonia

1.0. The Barcelona Model: Urban Renaissance and Multiculturalism
1.1. The Olympic Games, the Forum, and the 22@project
1.2. Linguistic Normalization and Diversity
1.3. Immigration
2.0. From Barcino to Barsiluna: Roman and Early Medieval Origins
   2.1. Before Barcino: Iberian and Classical Civilization
   2.2. Barcino: The Roman City
   2.3. Barsiluna: Visigoths, Moors, and Franks

3.0. The Medieval City
   3.1. Barchinona: Capital of Catalonia
   3.2. Society, Politics, and Trade in a Mediterranean Empire
   3.3. Crisis in the 14th and 15th Century: Famine, Plague, and Civil War

4.0. Decadence or Transformation? Barcelona under the Habsburgs
   4.1. Barcelona in the Composite Monarchy: Political Institutions
   4.2. The Influence of Castile: Language, Culture, and Society

5.0. Repression or Resurgence? Barcelona under the Bourbons
   5.1. Wars with Castile: From the Reapers’ War (1640-1659) to the War of Spanish Succession (1702-1714).
   5.2. The New Political Order: La Nueva Planta (1716)
   5.3. The Construction of the Citadel Fortress and the Transformation of the City

6.0. The Industrial City: The Manchester of the Mediterranean
   6.1. Barcelona in the Americas
   6.2. Agrarian, Economic, and Political Revolution
   6.3. The Demolition of the City Walls

7.0. The Cosmopolitan City: The Paris of the Mediterranean
   7.1. Urban Renewal: The Construction of the Eixample
   7.2. Cultural Renewal: Renaixença and Modernisme
   7.3. International Renewal: The World Exhibitions of 1888 and 1929

8.0. The Revolutionary City: Republic and Civil War
   8.1. The Worker’s Revolution: The Rise of Anarchism
   8.2. The Homefront: The War in the City

9.0. The Occupied City? Barcelona under Franco
   9.1. Exile, Censorship, and Immigration
   9.2. The Suburban Sprawl

10.0. The Democratic City
   10.1. The Transition to Democracy
   10.2. Politics, Society, and Economy Today

Required Readings: The professor will assemble a coursepack consisting of a selection of chapters from the following sources.


Huertas, Josep Ma, “The Neighborhood of la Ribera”. 50 times Barcelona. Visitor’s guide to the city, pp. 47-57


Planas, Silvia and Manuel Forcano, A History of Jewish Catalona: The Life and Death of Jewish Communities in Medieval Catalona (Girona: Ajuntament de Girona, 2009)


Rossi, Melissa, “The Barcelona Model”, Newsweek international (2 February 2004)

Bohigas, Oriol, “Ten points for an urban methodology” in Transforming Barcelona, 9 p. 1-96


**Recommended bibliography:**

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


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


VV.AA. *El refugi 307. La guerra civil i el Poble Sec*. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona, 2002