

Spanish 2100: Barcelona: Culture through the ages

Meets: Winter 2016, meets also in May 2016 in Barcelona.

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Description: This 3-week course in Barcelona explores cultural differences between the Mediterranean life and North American life through artistic expressions, history, food, and values. You will engage with the local culture, discover new places, and be exposed to new perspectives; ultimately, this experience will likely re-shape your identity in the global context.

Course Aims:

The course aims to achieve the following:

- Expose you to different histories to illustrate how these have shaped present-day Europe.
- Get you to know and experience another culture first-hand.
- Expose you to the local cultural production.
- Help you develop an understanding for linguistic minorities and different cultural frames.
- Familiarize you with new perspectives, new sights, new sounds, new smells, new tastes...
- Expand your worldview through active immersion in a different culture.

Learning Outcomes:

It is expected that, after this life-changing experience, you will have the ability to accomplish the following:

- Demonstrate cultural awareness of the values you have acquired in your international and intercultural experience.
- Rethink your identity and deepen your knowledge about your culture and yourself.

- Compare artistic expressions and reflect on how those have evolved through time.
- Communicate with a wider range of people.
- Respect, understand, and relate to others' voices.
- Accommodate yourself into different socio-cultural realities.
- Tolerate and appreciate intercultural differences by recognizing the value of diversity.

Course Materials (in English):

Hughes, R. (1993). *Barcelona* (Reprint edition). New York: Vintage.

Evaluation

Self-reflection diary: 30%

Group Exploration and Presentation: 20%

Essay on the obligatory readings: 10%

Active Engagement and Participation in activities: 15%

Final Project: 25%

Calendar (very tentative)

September 28th: First Information Session

January 14th, 5:00 – 7:00: Class

March 10th, 5:00-7:00: Class (Discussion of the obligatory readings)

March 28th, 5:00-7:00 Departure Orientation

Also compulsory: Pre-departure workshops organized by the Student Success Center.

W	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Getting to know the place and its history	May 8- Fly to Barcelona	May 9 – Arrival. Bus Arrival orientation.	May 10– Visit: MHCB, 2,000 years of history Field Trip: Roman Barcelona	May 11 – Visit: Born Centre Cultural Field Trip: Ruta 1714, Ciutat Vella	May 12 – Visit: MNAC 1,000 years of Catalan art ***Field Trip: Montjuïc	May 13 - Trip: Girona The Medieval City. The Jewish life	May 14 - Free
2 Catalan Culture	May 15 – Free	May 16 – ***Trip: Montserrat The mountain and the Monastery life. Winery.	May 17 – The Modernist Barcelona Visit: La Pedrera	May 18 – ***Visit: Parliament Field Trip: Parc de la Ciutadella	May 19 – ***Corpus Christi Field Trip: “L’ou com balla” places	May 20 – ***Field Trip: Parc Güell	May 21 – Free
3 Artistic Life	May 22 – Free	May 23 – Trip: Figueres Dali Museum	May 24 – Visit: Sagrada Família Last Reflections Farewell Dinner	May 25 – Fly to Toronto			

Attendance and Participation (25%)

Attendance is compulsory in this course. You can only miss an activity or field trip in case of an emergency.

Self-Reflection Diary (30%)

For this course, you will need to create a blog and have at least **4 postings** a week, in different days, with a minimum of **200 words** per post. You are encouraged to include videos, pictures, etc. in your posts. This blog will allow you to reflect on your experience at the same time as you engage with community members back home such as your family, the Western community, etc.

Week 1: Who are you? Who are they?

The posts for the first week will revolve around the topic of identity, yours and 'theirs'. What are your first impressions of the city and the people? Which differences do you perceive? Talk about your first cultural shock. What has been your most uncomfortable moment? What do you miss the most? What do you like the most so far about Barcelona? How do people interact? How have your first encounters with locals been? Have you had communication problems? How did you solve them?

Week 2: Making Connections

Choose four cultural productions (two that we have visited/explored in group and two that you have explored in the city on your own) and compare them to an equivalent cultural product in your culture. These can be places, cultural experiences, food, clothing, transportation, art, music, schedules, etc. What are the main differences and similarities? What was your initial idea about those places/objects? Did you have prejudices? Do you understand better now these cultural expressions (both, the ones in Barcelona and the ones in Canada)? Are you going to reassess previous knowledge or beliefs about those expressions? How?

Week 3: Taking Stock

Has your interaction with the city /local people and culture changed? Reflect on any changes in attitude or understanding that you may have undergone in your experience abroad. How is your overall experience in these three weeks have changed you? What do you bring to Canada with you? What do you leave in Barcelona that no longer serves?

Group Exploration and Presentation: 20%

In the calendar, you have a series of activities/places of which your group will be in charge. These places are marked with asterisks ***. In groups of 3-4 people, you will choose one topic and conduct extensive research on it. We will place you in groups during the pre-departure workshop, and you will start working on those presentations before traveling. This will allow you to meet some of your classmates and get to explore some places ahead of time. On the day of the field trip, your group will be in charge of providing an introductory presentation of 20-30 minutes on that place, and guide the rest of the group through the history, culture, anecdotes, etc of that place. It is encouraged that people from different backgrounds bring their expertise into

the presentation (some of you can work more on the visual part, some on the history, some on the social context, etc.)

Final Project (25%)

For the final project, you will choose one topic that caught your interest during your trip and develop it extensively. You will have to write a research essay on it, of approx. 8-10 pages, using at least 4 academic references. Remember to cite appropriately. Papers with plagiarism will automatically get a zero. The paper is due one week after the course is over, on June 13th, 2016.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- National identity in Catalonia
- The Independentist movement
- Catalan as a minority language
- The issue of the referendum. The 'plebiscite' elections
- Modernism: culture and art
- Gaudí and its architectonical vision
- The Cerdà plan: the urbanization of the city of Barcelona
- Catalonia within Spain: its political relevance
- Picasso and his relationship with Barcelona
- The 'americanos', economic relationships with the Spanish colonies and their impact in Catalonia
- The Olympic Games of 1992 and the development of the city
- The Universal exhibition of 1888
- The Universal exhibition of 1929
- The Roman city
- The Jewish life in the medieval Catalonia
- The new political movements: Ada Colau, Teresa Forcades and Sor Lucía Caram