CIEE Barcelona, Spain

Course title: Urban Culture in Contemporary Barcelona
Course code: HISP 3001 BASP
Programs offering course: Business and Culture, Economics and Culture, Global Architecture and Design, Language and Culture
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
Barcelona is well known as a prototype for the creative city, where different forms of urban culture are constantly emerging, reinventing the city itself. Contemporary arts and alternative literature and music styles are redefining the urban landscape of Barcelona in the XXI century, blending together local and international references. In this course students will actively explore and critically analyze the urban culture of contemporary Barcelona. Analysis will focus on key aspects of the global urban movement such as graffiti artists, skateboarders, multifunctional art-galleries, electronic and techno music festivals, video artists and comic book writers, to name a few. A series of fieldtrips will guide students through the creation of a mental topography map of the new Barcelona to develop insights on the local cultural forms? connections to wider global trends.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Discuss the history and evolution of key emerging representatives of urban cultural production.
- Compare emerging youth cultures and traditional representations of Spanish and Catalan culture in Barcelona.
- Examine local urban practices and evaluate their importance in a wider global context.
- Discriminate the main common characteristics of different forms of urban culture in the city of Barcelona.

Course Prerequisites
None

Methods of Instruction
Students will participate in instructor-led lectures, watch documentary films and engage in in-class discussions. Students will also apply in-class learning to participant observation in site visits.

Assessment and Final Grade
1. Final Paper or Visual Essay 20%
2. Oral Presentation 20%
3. Midterm Exam 20%
4. Final Exam 20%
5. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Final Paper or Visual Essay

The students will be required to choose one topic related to the subject to research and think about it. It can be a topic related directly to the topics that were worked at class or another on related to urban culture (previously asked to the professor).

- In case of choosing the classic final essay, the requirements are: about 5 pages; spacing should be 1.5 and the alignment changed to fully justified.
In case of choosing a visual essay, the students may use any of these visual formats: Prezi, video, ppt or Pinterest board. The requirements are:
- Prezi and ppt (about 10 slides)
- Video: about 5 minutes’ length
- Pinterest board: 10-15 images with image description

In both cases, at least 6 scholarly sources must be used.

Grading scale in both cases:

1. Is the question fully answered, the topic understood in depth and a development and support of the argument visible?
2. Is the essay well organized, showing a bibliography with the necessary support of sources (no Wikipedia or blog-entries are accepted) and is it well written?
3. Is the essay thoughtful, deep, CREATIVE, and far-reaching in its analysis? You can use of course also your opinion.

Other important points about the paper: DO not merely state the obvious or repeat others’ viewpoint. The reader must feel that the writer is in control of the direction and organization of the essay. Scholarly sources must be used. Wikipedia and personal blogs are NOT accepted.

**Oral Presentation**

On the first day of class, the instructor will provide a list of topics by subject via Canvas. Students will choose one topic and on a specific date will deliver a 10-15 minutes in-class oral presentation that includes a visual component (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.).

**Midterm Exam**

Short and long questions about the course content. The midterm is composed of:

- 1st part: a test of 10 questions (multiple-choice and true or false type) (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 2nd part: 5 short questions (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 3rd part: Analysis question: you can choose between two topics to explain one of them (maximum punctuation: 4 points).

**Final Exam**

Short and long questions about the course content. The exam is composed of:

- 1st part: a test of 10 questions (multiple-choice and true or false type) (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 2nd part: 5 short questions (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 3rd part: Analysis question: you can choose between two topics to explain one of them (maximum punctuation: 4 points).

**Class Participation**

Active participation is required in all classes. Different activities will be done in class, but in order to evaluate participation, the student has to complete 4 specific quizzes on Canvas (each one equals 5% of the final grade). These exercises also will be part of the discussion in class. Besides the following explanations, these tasks will be defined and explained further by the instructor during the previous sessions. Late quizzes will not be admitted.

- Quiz 2: Quiz about the film *Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona* (Woody Allen, 2008) and *Biutiful* (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010).
- Quiz 3: Quiz about the documentary *Bye, Bye, Barcelona* (2014) and the related article of “Mass tourism can kill a city” (*The Guardian*, 2014): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdXcFCfRpmI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdXcFCfRpmI)

Laptops are not welcomed unless the professor says otherwise in the specific case of some classroom activities.
**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for short-term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences will lead to the following penalties:

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Introduction to Barcelona city & course description

Class: 1.2 A brief historical introduction

**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 A look at contemporary Catalan politics. A city between identities


Class: 2.2 A look at contemporary Catalan politics. A city between identities

On site class: Parliament of Catalonia

**Week 3**

Class: 3.1 Barcelona Brand: the redesign of the Olympic Barcelona

The Global Projection of Barcelona

Mandatory Quiz 2: Quiz about the film *Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona* (Woody Allen, 2008) and *Biutiful* (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010).

Oral presentation: Barcelona’s branding.

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Mandatory Quiz 2: Quiz about the film *Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona* (Woody Allen, 2008) and *Biutiful* (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010).

Oral presentation: Barcelona’s branding.

Reading: John Hargreaves “Public opinion, national integration and national identity in Spain: the case of the Barcelona Olympic Games”.

Class: 3.2 Gentrified Barcelona and redesigning the urbanism of the city: superblocks

Oral presentation: What is Gentrification and how affects a city?
Week 4

Class: 4.1 22@ and Poblenou, Neighbourhood of design

On site class: “Scavenger hunt”.

Class: 4.2 Barcelona and the controversy about the Touristic explosion

Oral presentation: Tourism at Barcelona.

Mandatory Quiz 3: Quiz about the documentary *Bye, Bye, Barcelona* (2014) and the related article of “Mass tourism can kill a city” (*The Guardian*, 2014): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdXcFChRpmI


Week 5

Class: 5.1 Not only Gaudí: the other modernist artists

On site class: a walk through some of the (other) modernist façades at the city center.

Oral presentation: Modernism at Barcelona

Oral presentation: Gaudí

Oral presentation: Josep Puig I Cadafalch

Oral presentation: Domènech I Muntaner

Class: 5.2 Review for the midterm

Week 6

Class: 6.1 MIDTERM

Class: 6.2 On site class: not only Gaudí

A walk through some of the (other) modernist façades at the city center.

Week 7

Class: 7.1 On site activity in groups: (“Your Barcelona”)

Recording a 5 minutes’ original video in groups about your vision, perspective and experience so far at the city of Barcelona. (More guidelines will be provided at class).

Class: 7.2 The art of graffiti in Barcelona

The origins of graffiti in Barcelona and the problem of the authorities’ ban

Oral presentation: Street art.

Activity: Video essay about the urban art in Barcelona. Recording a 5 minutes original video in groups about your vision, perspective and experience so far at the city of Barcelona. (More guidelines will be provided at class).


Week 8

Class: 8.1 The art of graffiti in Barcelona

On site class: El Borne & Gothic Street art tour.
Week 9

Class: 8.2 Contemporary tv in Barcelona

Oral presentation: History of Spanish and Catalan tv

Oral presentation: Contemporary Spanish tv

Week 9

Class: 9.1 Description of content: Contemporary tv in Barcelona

Guest lecture: by the professional tv critic Pere Solà Gimferrer, from the Newspaper La Vanguardia.

Class: 9.2 Cinema in Barcelona

Oral presentation: History of Spanish and Catalan cinema

Oral presentation: Contemporary cinema in Spain

Week 10

Class: 10.1 Cinema in Barcelona

Activity: Urban culture film awards

Class: 10.2 A brief history of comic and cartoon in Barcelona

Oral presentation: Wrinkles, by Paco Roca.

Oral presentation: The emblematic TBO.


Week 11

Class: 11.1 The gastronomy: From humble origins to the haute cuisine elite

Oral presentation: Typical dishes in Barcelona.

Reading: Silviya Svejenova “Cooking Up Change in Haute Cuisine: Ferran Adrià as an Institutional Entrepreneur”

Class activity: Santa Catarina market. Look for a traditional Catalan/Spanish recipe; Buy the ingredients at the market and cook it or prepare it for bringing to class next day to share with the group.

Class: 11.2 Contemporary Spanish & Catalan music

Some music of the immediate past. Festivals and music agenda in Barcelona and Catalonia.

Oral presentation: Catalan Rumba

Oral presentation: Catalan Rock

Week 12

Class: 12.1 Contemporary Spanish & Catalan music

Master class by Paula Domínguez, Spanish professional musician, specialized in flamenco and contemporary music.

Class activity: delivery of the final essay

Class: 12.2 Final exam review

Week 13
Course Materials

Readings


