CIEE Barcelona, Spain

Course title: Introduction to Catalan Language in its Social Context
Course code: CATA 1001 BASP
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Culture, Economics and Culture, Global Architecture and Design, Liberal Arts, Language and Culture
Language of instruction: Catalan
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

This course is designed to fulfill interest in learning Catalan, one of the most widely spoken non-state languages in western Europe. It will expose students to the main sociocultural manifestations of the Catalan-speaking territories: Catalonia, the Balearic Island, and the Valencian Community (where the language is known as Valencian) in Spain, the Pyrénées-Orientales region of France, and in Andorra. The emphasis of this course will be placed on oral communication, as well as grammatical structures. The reading and writing practice will allow the student to communicate comfortably in a Catalan environment. Furthermore, the student will develop an understanding of the historical and cultural roots of modern Catalan identity.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Identify familiar Catalan words and basic grammatical constructions.
- Interpret essential information from short, simple Catalan texts such as instructions and news.
- Present information related to themselves in Catalan, including words and phrases and highly practiced sentences or formulaic questions.
- Produce short compositions written in Catalan.
- Examine defining traits of Catalan culture and society.

Course Prerequisites

4 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent).

Methods of Instruction

The Catalan language will be taught using a communicative approach with a special focus on developing the students’ listening and speaking skills. The in-class use and practice of the language in real life contexts will be encouraged, so that students can practice Catalan with natives outside the classroom context. Some exercises will be done in class, while others will be assigned to be done at home. A variety of aspects of Catalan culture and society will be studied and discussed in class in the form of PowerPoint presentations, compulsory readings, class debates, fieldtrips and the students’ personal experiences. Students are expected to contribute to the discussion of said topics at all times and are moreover required to give an individual oral presentation about a Catalan cultural aspect of their choosing.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 25%
2. Final Exam 25%
3. Exercises 20%
4. Oral Presentation 20%
5. Class Participation 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Midterm Exam

To be given in class on the date assigned. The exam will cover the contents of the first part of the course and will consist of a written test with grammar questions and a few short questions about Catalan culture and society. No class-notes or books are allowed.

Final Exam

To be given in class on the date assigned. The exam will cover the contents of the whole course and will consist of a written test with grammar questions and a few short questions about Catalan culture and society. No class-notes or books are allowed.

Exercises

Grammar and vocabulary exercises to practice the aspects of language taught in class (some of them will be self-correcting exercises). Short compositions written in Catalan, and some short reading and listening exercises to practice Catalan comprehension.

Oral Presentation

The presentation has to be done individually and in Spanish. A list of possible topics and specific instructions will be provided in class.

Class Participation

Students are expected to contribute to class debates and actively participate, particularly in the speaking activities designed to improve the students’ oral skills in Catalan.

CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day’s class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 5 class sessions, students’ final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 6 absences).

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.

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 the Course

  Historical, geographical and social introduction to Catalan language
  Students’ self-introduction (I). Greetings. Numbers
  “Studying Catalan. Why?”, by Columbia University students

Class: 1.2 Students’ Self-introduction (II)

  Present tense of verbs dir-se ‘be named’, ser ‘to be’, viure ‘to live’, tenir ‘to have’ and conèixer ‘to meet’.
Meeting someone. How to ask simple questions. Interrogatives
Phonetic and graphical aspects of Catalan (brief introduction)

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Basic Communicative Skills in the City and at the University Context (I)

The weather
The Catalan linguistic domain or the Catalan-speaking territories
Branchadell, A. & de Melchor, V. (2007): The Catalan Language (p. 29-49)

Class: 2.2 Communicative Aspects of Location & Situation of the City and of University (I)

The verb haver-hi 'there is / there are'. Where do you live? The house and the furniture.
Barcelona: capital of Catalonia. Student's impressions on the city of Barcelona

Week 3
Class: 3.1 Daily Activities (I)

Verbs fer 'to do' and anar 'to go'
Days of the week and frequency adverbs
Months: Catalan festivities through the year

Class: 3.2 Daily Activities (II)

Expression of the present
Parts of the day
The hours
The habits of Catalan people

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Daily Activities (III)

Expression of the present
Overview on Catalan language history

Class: 4.2 Visit to the Museu d'Història de Catalunya

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Expressing our Preferences

Hobbies. Verb m'agrada 'to like'. Quantifiers ( molt, força, no...gaire, no...gens, etc.)
Sociolinguistic approach to Catalan language (I)

Class: 5.2 Describing people (I)

Personality and physical traits adjectives. Vocabulary about clothes and colors and body vocabulary. What are Catalan people like?
Sociolinguistic approach to Catalan language (II)
Alina Moser & David Valls (2013): “Are these Catalan people crazy?”

**Week 6**
Class: 6.1 Describing People (II)
- The family
- Possessives
- Food vocabulary (I). Review of verb m’agrada ‘to like’. Verb voler ‘to want’

Class: 6.2 Course Contents Review Before the Midterm Exam

**Week 7**
Class: 7.1 Midterm Exam

Class: 7.2 Food Vocabulary (II)
- Catalan cuisine
  - Expressing the obligation (cal + infinitive, haver de + infinitive). Expressing the ability: verb poder ‘to be able to, can’

**Week 8**
Class: 8.1 Basic Communicative Skills in Stores and Restaurants (I)
- Catalan cuisine from student’s experiences
- Cooking Catalan recipes

Class: 8.2 Basic Communicative Skills in Stores and Restaurants (II)
- Visit to the Mercat de Santa Caterina

**Week 9**
Class: 9.1 The Past Tenses (I)
- Catalan music (I): the censorship and the Nova Cançó

Class: 9.2 The Past Tenses (II)
- Catalan music (II): from the 90’s to present

**Week 10**
Class: 10.1 Visit to the Catalan Parliament

Class: 10.2 The Past Tenses (III)
- Catalan traditions

**Week 11**
Class: 11.1 The Future and the Conditional Tenses (I)
- A taste of Catalan contemporary literature from texts (I)
  - “Corrandes d’exili” (“Exile songs”), by Joan Oliver

Class: 11.2 The Future and the Conditional Tenses (II)
A taste of Catalan contemporary literature from texts (II)

“Els catalans pel món” (“Catalans about the world”), by Pere Calders

*In Diamond Square* (excerpt), by Mercè Rodoreda

**Week 12**
Class: 12.1
Students’ oral presentations
Discussion

Class: 12.2
Students’ oral presentations
Discussion

**Week 13**
Class: 13.1
Students’ oral presentations
Discussion

Class: 13.2
Students’ oral presentations
Discussion

**Week 14**
Class: 14.1 Current Situation and Future Outlook of the Catalan Language
Discussion and student experiences


Class: 14.2
Course contents review before the final exam

**Week 15**
Class: 15.1 Final Exam

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


**Online Resources**

Diccionari de la Llengua Catalana Multilingüe
http://www.multilingue.cat/

Guía de conversación universitaria inglés-catalán
http://www.ub.edu/guiaconversa/index.php
Parla.cat. Espacio virtual de aprendizaje de catalán
http://www.parla.cat/