

THE GREAT ART COLLECTIONS IN SPAIN *Art and Architecture*

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US

OBJECTIVES

This program is designed to help students learn to view, observe and read the art and culture of the Iberian Peninsula. It places special emphasis on the objects or objectual reality around us, both in Barcelona, and in virtual reality (online). We'll study the works of art in museum collections as well as the works we can see all over Barcelona (galleries, museums, cultural centers, civic centers, on the street, in artists' workshops...). We will analyze the works first-hand, keeping in mind the essential characteristics of the students, guiding them towards an appreciation of art as a form of communication and learning that can be useful in all aspects of life.

The approach we'll use will be interdisciplinary and hybrid, using the maximum amount of tools at hand or those that are necessary: aesthetics, composition, shape, history, social context, anthropology, archaeology... Analysis can be diachronic and synchronic. Each individual student's background and context will be taken in to account to optimized learning and enthusiasm. Students' personal opinions and critical spirit will be stimulated and will become yet another tool for analyzing art.

Visual semantics: grammar, syntax, phonetics, visual aspects.
Through visual literacy, we'll visit fantastic works of art to acquire the ability and confidence to react and/or comment from our own observations.

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collections?projectId=art-project&hl=en&q=Spain>

REQUIREMENTS

An active attitude inclining the student to view and explore. Enthusiasm, passion (or not) for observation.

An interest in action, images, shape, volume, perception, movement...

An interest in art, culture, sociology, psychology, history... in life in general. We will visit art centers, museums, artists' workshops and public art.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students should:

1. Be able to describe a work of art from their own perspective
2. Be able to identify the works of art that they like or dislike
3. Learn to identify artists, styles, modus operandi
4. Become adept at commenting on works of art and transmitting their opinion and knowledge to others
5. Acquire the capability to analyze works of art
6. Be able to compare and contrast their opinions with those of others
7. Have critical spirit
8. Be able to work in groups
9. Be capable of using elements of visual analysis, making them part of their own language
10. Learn to use the elements of visual analysis to comment on artworks
11. Discern the different institutions and agents of the world of the art and culture
12. Recognize the different art museums of the Iberian Peninsula

CONTENTS

- 1 Introductions Introduction to the topic
Perception. Points of view. Collections.
Visit the Modernista – Casa Convalescència – artworks and materials.
- 2 Elements of visual analysis: perspective, appearance, attitude, points of view, diversity, freedom of opinion. Methodologies of artwork analysis.
Barcelona skyline: Working field trip to Turó de la Rovira (promontory).
- 3 Visual literacy. Artworks Museums and works of art Group work; visits to museums and workshops in the city: La Escocesa.
- 4 Art and history concepts: modernity, post- modernity
Collections and artworks Writing papers in groups and individually
- 5 Knowledge, tools. Wishes, preferences, likes Visit artists' workshops, galleries or centers of art and culture...

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Students are encouraged to create their own way of viewing art, the artist and the work of art. Attendance is not compulsory, but it is useful for the students in order to change their perception and get to know different points of view. It is important to remark that most of the theoretical material, tools and methodologies covered in class are fundamental for building a personal opinion, each student in their own way, and allowing different presentations of the topics.

Group work using new technologies and all sorts of tools at hand. Constant exchange regarding what we see, feel, observe and what interests us. Joint research into the material useful for the students, aiming towards gaining an understanding and enthusiasm about the works being analyzed.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The main factors that will be considered are students' individual evolution in the capacity for personal analysis of art, a critical spirit, capacity for observation and expression as well as individual changes and changes with relation to the group throughout the course.

Continuous evaluation.

Class work: papers

Mid-term presentation: Each student will give an oral presentation of about 20 minutes after working in groups of three.

Mid-term Papers: one essay.

Class participation and homework: Discussion, writings, drawings, images...

Final Presentation in class: Each student will give an oral presentation of about 15 minutes.

Final Papers: one essays; personal; shown the student's own opinion about the topic.

Two tutorials / interviews will be held with each student to ascertain their preferences and needs and ensure they get the most out of the subject. These individual meetings will also serve to ascertain or recognize the student's evolution in class and as a tool for evaluation.

Attendance and participation are valued positively. High grades will be awarded for work that demonstrates:

- A good knowledge of course material, including readings and notes from class and site visits
- The ability to articulate ideas clearly on the style and subject matter of the museums, artists and works of art covered, with the use of appropriate terminology and methods.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

<http://www.spainisculture.com/en> (Portal for the promotion of Spanish culture. Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport)

<http://www.spainisculture.com/en/temas/museos/>

http://www.spainisculture.com/en/temas/artistas_creadores/

<http://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/project/art-project>

About Barcelona:

Art:

<http://creativa.barcelona.cat/en/> (official website)

http://w10.bcn.es/APPS/gmocataleg_monum/CambialdiomaAc.do?idioma=es&pagina=welcome (official website)

And the material on museum websites, where available: www.macba.cat/

www.fundaciojoanbrossa.cat/ www.gaudicentre.cat/es

<http://elmuseodelgraffiti.blogspot.com.es/>

<http://www.girona.cat/sqdap/cat/MFGi.php> <http://eatart.org/>

www.foodcultura.org/

Recommended reading:

Ronald Barthes, *La Chambre Claire : Note sur la photographie*, 1980 (Camera Lucida New York: Hill and Wang, 1981)(ref.: Elkins, James "Camera Dolorosa" in *History of Photography*, vol. 31, no. 1, (Spring 2007) pp. 22–30.)

WHITE, Kit, *101 things to learn in art school*, 2011 (spanish digital edition: Editorial Gustavo Gili, S.L., Barcelona, 2014)

Guggenheim, P., *Out of This Century: Confessions of an art addict. (The Autobiography of Peggy Guggenheim)*, 2005.

Joan Brossa Foundation. (Technical degrees and University:

<http://www.fundaciojoanbrossa.cat/standard.php?idmenu=5&menu2=14&submenu=22>)