

## THE IMAGE OF BARCELONA IN LITERATURE

### *Mediterranean Studies*

**Course contact hours:** 45

**Recommended credits:** 6 ECTS – 3 US

#### OBJECTIVES

After the Olympic Games of 1992, Barcelona became known to the world as an international tourist destination; but a short tourist visit cannot account for the cultural complexities of the Catalan capital. In order to know any city, to “dwell” in it, we need to become familiar with its oral history, paintings, architecture, sculpture, and literary texts. More specifically, the more we learn about the literature of Barcelona, the more we shall know about its cultural past and present. With this aim in mind, this course will explore the city through the eyes of its writers. We shall start in the nineteenth century with the rise of the modern metropolis that we know today and finish with the post-Olympic urban reality of the twenty-first century. Students will encounter a wide variety of materials - poetry, novel, theater and essay - and will be expected to study them with a critical eye, applying additional historical, cultural and theoretical readings. Our goal will be to arrive at a greater knowledge of the city and its context, as well as the literature surrounding it.

#### REQUIREMENTS

Fluent English  
Interest in literature

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Gain a general understanding of Spanish and Catalan history, culture and society
2. Analyze a text and conduct a close reading
3. Understand better some 20th Century ideologies and historical concepts.
4. Get to know more about the city in which they are spending their semester abroad: Barcelona.

## CONTENTS

Content	Activities*
Catalonia Today, September 11 National Holiday	Class presentation
Introduction to the History of Catalonia and Spain	Note taking and viewing of two youtube clips on the history of Catalonia
Barcelona in the XVIII Century	Analysis of Victus by Sanchez Pinyol
Barcelona in the XIX Century: The Birth of a new city	Reading: Short story by Narcís Oller
Ildefons Cerdà: Urbanism	Reading: The Eixample and Cerdà
Ideologies of the XXth Century: Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism, Communism Anarchism	Lecture and quiz
The Avant-garde: Cubism, Futurism, Surrealism	Reading: Nostalgia for tomorrow by Joan Salvat Papasseit
Exam review and Preparation for the "In Class Essay". Introduction of the author of the literary piece.	
The Spanish Civil War	Reading: The first chapter of Homage to Catalonia by George Orwell
The Spanish Civil war II The Dictatorship: General Franco	Reading: Fragments from The Time of the Doves
Spanish Civil War 3	Viewing: The tongue of the butterflies
The transition to democracy	Reading: A chapter of Homage to Barcelona by Colm Toibin
Quim Monzo's Short Stories: The Postmodern dissolution of the city	Reading: Admiration by Quim Monzó

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Classes will be conducted in lecture style but will promote participation and debate at every moment. The instructor will start by asking students about the previous lecture in order to assess what did they understand and encourage them to be active in their learning. During the sessions of close reading of texts students will have to lead the class and explain what did they think of the text and why.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Mid-term exam: 25%  
In class essay: 35%  
Final Exam: 35%  
Class participation 10%

Midterm Exam (25%): This exam will consist of a series of questions that ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material covered in class.

In class essay (35%): Students will be asked to read the novel *Nada* by Carmen Laforet (a copy of it will be posted online). In class they will be required to answer questions about it in the form of an essay.

Final Exam (30%): This exam will consist of a series of questions that ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material covered in class in addition to their capacity for in-depth textual analysis.

Class Participation (10%): P Each student must participate (pertinently) at least 10 times during the semester in order to get the full mark,

### Required Readings

There will be a Course Reader posted on SAM containing all the texts that the student needs for the class as well as the novel *Nada* by Carmen Laforet that they also need to read.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY TO BE FOUND IN THE COURSE READER

Hughes, Robert. *Fragments from Barcelona the Great Enchantress*  
Monzó, Quim. *Admiration in O'Clock, Olivetti, Moulinex, Chaffoteauxet Maury*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986. (Trad by Mary Ann Newman)  
Oller, Narcís. "Women, always women!" from *Croquis del Natural*. Professor's own translation.  
Orwell, George. *Frist chapter of Hommage to Catalonia*  
Salvat-Papasseit, Joan. *Nostalgia for Tomorrow from Selected poems*. Joan Salvat Papasseit. Oxford: The Anglo-Ca-talan Society, 1982. (Trad. D. Keown i T. Owen)  
Sánchez Pinyol, Albert. *Fragments from Victus*.

Recommended reading:

Calpena, Enric. Barcelona. Una biografia. Barcelona: Edicions 62, 2014.

Cervera, Joseph Philip. Modernismo: The Catalan Renaissance of the Arts. New York: Garland, 1976.

Graham, Helen and Jo Labanyi, eds. Spanish Cultural Studies: An Introduction: The struggle for Modernity. New York: Oxford UP, 1995.

Lehan, Richard. The city in Literature: An intellectual and cultural history. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Pike, Burton. The image of the city in modern literature. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1981.

Terry, Arthur. A Companion to Catalan Literature. London: Thamesis Books, 2010.