

<b>Gap Semester Programme</b> <b>BARCELONA: THE MAKING OF A GLOBAL CITY</b>
--

**Course contact hours:** 45

**Number of sessions:** 27

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

**Professor:**

### **Objectives**

In this course students study the profound transformations that Barcelona has experienced since the celebration of the first local elections in 1977 to the present day. From a closed, grey city, Barcelona reinvented itself as the world-class metropolis it is today thanks to a combination of public and private initiatives.

This course looks at how policies of international projection, the hosting of major events and congresses and the creation of a universal brand were used to develop infrastructure and renew the city for both international visitors and local inhabitants.

Students see how technology is being applied in different areas to understand the city and its people, and to make further improvements for citizens. This is understood as the result of Barcelona's most recent objective to position itself as innovative and sustainable, a world leader among *Smart Cities*.

### **Learning outcomes**

#### **General:**

- Develop capacities and strategies for independent learning including becoming actively responsible for the learning process, developing the ability to self-assess progress and manage time.
- Enhance teamwork skills by adopting a collaborative methodology to complete tasks, projects and presentations.
- Adapt to working in an international context, understanding the intercultural make-up of the class / group and developing empathy.
- Use different media to support learning, communication and presentation skills.

#### **Specific:**

- Be able to compare different types of cities by morphology.
- Be able to identify the main elements of neighborhoods and districts.
- Analyze policies and initiatives to improve cities.
- Understand how public institutions and private corporations collaborate to modify the city.
- Learn the applications of specific urban legislation.
- Understand the intersections between ecology, technology and political initiative when applied to Western cities.

## **Contents**

Week 1. - Introduction to the Physical Geography of Barcelona

Week 2. - Barcelona by neighborhood

Week 3. - The End of Francoism and a City to build

Week 4. - The improvements of the 1980s

Week 5. - DEBATE. Tourism and the Postmodern City

Week 6. - DEBATE. Neoliberalism and the City

Week 7. - PRESENTATIONS. The Olympic Games in Barcelona (1992)

Week 8. - PRESENTATIONS. Sprawl or Compact Cities

Week 9. - PRESENTATIONS. Barcelona and the Forum of the Cultures (2004)

Week 10. - PRESENTATIONS. Buses, Taxis and Mass Transport

Week 11. - PRESENTATIONS. Smart Cities in Motion

Week 12. - DEBATE. Social Inclusion in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cities

Week 13. - FINAL ASSESSMENT

## **Teaching methodology**

The professor uses different modern educational techniques and technologies to enable students to succeed in a wide range of fields and methodologies. These include lectures, discussions, exploration, hands on experience, field trips and invited experts. Participation is valued through collaboration, presentations and activities in which students are responsible for researching and interpreting the topics studied and analyzed.

## **Assessment criteria**

25% Mid Term Exam

20% Final Exam

20% Presentation

20% Research Paper

15% Debates and Discussions

## **Bibliography**

Mari Paz Balibrea (auth.). *The Global Cultural Capital: Addressing the Citizen and Producing the City in Barcelona*. Palgrave Macmillan UK. 2017.

Oliver Hochadel, Agustí Nieto-Galan. *Barcelona: An Urban History of Science and Modernity, 1888–1929*. Routledge. 2016.

Antoni Vives. *SMART CITY Barcelona: The Catalan Quest to Improve Future Urban Living*. Sussex Academic Press. 2018.

Francesc Solanellas, Alain Ferrand, Andreu Camps. *Barcelona 92: A Legacy Case Study*. Springer Singapore; Palgrave Pivot. 2020.

Ajuntament de Barcelona. *2016-2025. Barcelona Right to Housing Plan*. Executive Summary. Barcelona, September 2016.

Ajuntament de Barcelona. *Barcelona Tourism for 2020. A Collective Strategy for Sustainable Tourism*. Barcelona, March 2017.

Commission for Ecology, Urban Planning and Mobility. *Let's fill the Streets with Life*. Establishing Superblocks in Barcelona. Barcelona, May 2016.

UN Habitat. *Planned City Extensions: Analysis of Historical Examples*. Nairobi. 2015.