

BARCELONA CITY PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE *Mediterranean Studies*

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

OBJECTIVES

This course aims to explain the history and evolution of the City of Barcelona from its foundation by the Romans in the year 20 BC to the present day politics of the City Hall. The perspectives used will be those of Urbanism, political interventions in the city and urban sociology. Architecture will also be treated during the presentations but will not be one of the most important elements during the semester.

As well as studying the evolution of the City of Barcelona students will compare this Mediterranean City to other realities like the Baroque capitals: Madrid, Paris, London or Moscow; or the business centers linked to a port like New York or Singapore. Last but not least, we will cover the evolution of the modern, informal urban centers in developing countries.

REQUIREMENTS

Fluent English

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To describe the most important traits of any Western city.
2. Understand and identify the characteristics of each type of urbanism studied in class.
3. Analyze the intentions of some urban interventions and the risks implicit in them.
4. Understand the evolution of Western cities and how planners, adapted or not to social and economic changes.
5. Be able to read and fully understand any document on the planning of Barcelona.

CONTENTS

- The Foundation of Barcelona
- The Medieval City
- *La Ciutadella* and *la Barceloneta*
- Modern Urbanism
- *L'Eixample*
- The Expo of 1888 and the Expansion of 1897
- Modernism and the Expo of 1929
- Republic and Civil War
- Francisco Franco and Planning
- Transition to Democracy and the PGM
- The Olympics
- After the Olympics, 1992-2004
- Barcelona since 2004

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Classes will be conducted in lecture format. Lectures start by explaining the topics covered in the session and why they are relevant. They are interactive from the start and individual student participation is encouraged. Lectures are combined with group exercises with the aim of consolidating the knowledge acquired during the lecture. The last part of the semester will be fully articulated through presentations. It is therefore important that not only the students presenting, but also those listening, are fully aware of the materials used.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Mid-term exam: 30%
Test: 30%
Presentations: 10%
Participation: 10%
Class Activity: 10%
Final exam: 10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

Ealham, C. (2005) *Class, Culture and Conflict in Barcelona 1898–1937*. London: Routledge.

Kaplan, T. (1992) *Red City, Blue Period. Social Movements in Picasso's Barcelona*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Mackay, D. (1985) *Modern Architecture in Barcelona, 1854-1939*. Sheffield: University of Sheffield Printing Unit.

Seidman, M. (1990) *Workers against Work. Labor in Paris and Barcelona during the Popular Fronts*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Recommended reading:

Freund, B. (2007) *The African City. A History*, Cambridge: CUP.

Hirt, S. & Stanilov, K. (2009) *Twenty Years of Transition: The Evolution of Urban Planning in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, 1989-2009*, Nairobi: UN HABITAT.

Lindfield, M. & Steinberg, F. (2012) *Green Cities, Mandaluyong City*, Asian Development Bank.

Monkkonen, E.H. (1988) *America Becomes Urban: The Development of U.S. Cities and Towns, 1780/1980*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Bass Warner, S. (1995) *The Urban Wilderness. A History of the American City*, Berkley: UCP.

Samuel, F. (2007) *Le Corbusier in Detail*, Architectural Press.