

Gap Semester Programme BARCELONA THROUGH ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

Objectives

Using Catalonia and in particular Barcelona as a backdrop, this course offers an introduction to the study of art and architecture in a historical perspective, with a clear focus on the rich local heritage. Students study and experience the evolution and transformation of artistic styles focusing on the main movements of Art and Architecture in the world using Barcelona and Catalonia to bring theory to life. This experiential approach equips students with the tools to identify, analyse and fully understand different styles of buildings, monuments, paintings and sculptures.

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:

- Acquire the specific technical vocabulary of each artistic discipline.
- Be able to identify and understand the main artistic styles and movements.
- Be able to understand and interpret the main elements and compositions of artistic works.
- Be capable of critically analysing Western artistic and architectural styles particularly Modernism, Cubism, and Expressionism.
- Understand the invisible motivations of artists and creators in different eras.
- Establish comparisons with other regions of the world and their own artistic heritage.
- Critically assess the meaning and understanding of the word “art” in different moments of history.

Programme

Week 1. - Eras in the World of Art

Week 2. - Architecture: the spatial manifestation of Art

Week 3. - Painting: from a bi-dimensional representation of the World to a fully developed representation of perspective

Week 4. - Sculpture: modelling matter to create new realities

Week 5. - Studying Art and Architecture in the Streets of Barcelona

Week 6. - Form or Function. The never-ending debate

Week 7. - The Evolution of Painting in Europe

Week 8. - The Language of Architecture since Ancient Greece

Week 9. - Sculpture and Representation since Neolithic Times

Week 10. - The Function of Art in Human Life

Week 11. - Debating Art and its function in Human Existence Week 12.- Music as a non-physical form of Art

Week 13. - FINAL ASSESSMENT

Approach

There is a combination of in-class learning activities designed to combine theoretical input, observation and reflection. Classroom activities include lectures, documentaries, presentations, guest speakers and debates. Field trips, guided tours and visits draw on the rich artistic heritage in the city of Barcelona to further engage students and inspire them to continue deciphering the city architecturally and through cultural exhibitions in their free time.

Assessment criteria

25% Mid Term and Final Exam

25% Research Paper and Presentation 25% Class Activities

25% Attendance and Participation

Bibliography

Berger, John, Ways of Seeing, London, Penguin Books, 2008.

Davies, Colin, A New History of Modern Architecture, Laurence King, 2018.

Dempsey, Amy, Styles, Schools and Movements: The Essential Encyclopaedic Guide to Modern Art, London, Thames and Hudson Ltd, 2010.

Gardner, Helen, Art through the Ages, New York, Wadsworth Publishing Co Inc, 1995 (first published in 1926).

Gombrich, E. H., The Story of Art, London. Phaidon Press, 1951.

Watkin, David, A History of Western Architecture, Laurence King Publishing, 2015.