

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Barcelona

Course Code / Title: BC/ARTH 310 Barcelona's Cultural Fabric: Art, Architecture, and City

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Art History / History, Cultural Studies, Urban Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course invites students to delve into Barcelona's rich and diverse cultural heritage. Starting from its earliest foundations up to the contemporary era, it provides a guided journey through the most relevant historical, artistic, and architectural events that have shaped the city's urban identity. With deep roots in its past and a focus to the future, Barcelona has become an international model for its ability to preserve and showcase its uniqueness, while making creative use of innovation to underpin cutting-edge urban updating processes. Field study experiences enhance classroom discussions and allow experiencing the way in which these historical and cultural dimensions intertwine and build-up the city's multilayered fabric. This interdisciplinary approach is expanded through contextual and critical reviews, in local and global basis, to learn about the challenges facing Barcelona today.

Objectives

Through their participation in this course, students will:

- Build-up a technical vocabulary for identifying, analyzing and describing art, architecture, and urban design in direct observation of the contemporary city.
- Recognize the historical and cultural layers that have shaped the built environment of European cities – with Barcelona as a paradigmatic case – to contrast and compare with other urban and cultural realities.
- Experience the way in which art, architecture, and urban planning concretize and intertwine in the city's multilayered fabric.
- Learn about the main social, economic, ideological and political phenomena – at a local and global basis – that have influenced the building of Barcelona's identity at once Mediterranean, European, Spanish, and Catalan.

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- Explore how current issues about environmental sustainability, social equity, and integration of diversity lead Barcelona's place-making and public art agendas, while defining the challenges facing the city today.

Requirements

Active participation is essential in this course. Students are expected to attend each class and field study course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Class lectures provide a general overview of the course thematic and conceptual groundwork, as well as underlining theoretical frameworks to be applied through direct experience and observation of the contemporary city. The lectures are complemented by reading discussions, film screening, guest speakers, and other proposed activities from the city's cultural agenda. Students are expected to read all assigned materials before the relevant class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Reading assignments are generally 20-30 pages per class session. All assignments must be submitted via Canvas unless otherwise noted.

Graded assignments include:

- **Reading Questionnaires and Quizzes:** The body of selected texts offer a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of historical and current issues in the contemporary city. Written by scholars from different fields, they range from historical background to contemporary analysis and critique. To assess the online reading assignments, 3 response online questionnaires and 2 quizzes in class (in essay format, occurring the first and second half of the course), will test students' comprehension of the reading content of the course.
- **Field Study Reports:** Three reports will be submitted, according to the guidelines provided, on three of the specified course-related excursions. On-site visits to significant historical and contemporary spaces in the city are essential components for the experiential learning of the contents developed in class. They include the observation of selected works of art, architecture, urban design and public space developments. Visits to museums, considered both as containers of significant architecture and as institutions that house representative art collections, support the study of the cultural history of Barcelona and its international projection.
- **Midterm Exam:** This examination has different formats to assess students' progress towards the learning outcomes in the first half of the course. They

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might include essay questions, multiple choice questions, maps, short answer questions, and justified True/False questions.

- **Student Presentation:** Students will make a 10-15 minute presentation to the class on a specific research topic, based on a common thematic approach provided, related to the content developed in the course. They will analyze the selected case, previously discussed with the instructor, using a comparative and critical approach to generate class discussion. A PowerPoint presentation is required, and the use of creative communication tools is encouraged.
- **Final Paper:** Based on the research findings prepared for the student presentation, the written paper should be original and reflect the student's own thoughts and experiences. It should incorporate comments received in the class presentation, take a position on the discussion raised, and demonstrate the process of knowledge acquisition on the thematic scope proposed in the course. Minimum length of 2,000 words.

Grading

- Class participation 10%
- Reading Questionnaires (3 at 2%) and Quizzes (2 at 2%) 10%
- Field Study Reports (3 at 5% each) 15%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Student Presentation 20%
- Final Paper 20%

Class Participation Grading Rubric

	A – 90-100% Exemplary	B – 80-89% Proficient	C – 70-79% Developing	D – 60-69% Unacceptable	F – 0-59% Missing
Frequency of class participation	Actively contributes 2+ times per meeting	Actively contributes at least 1 time per meeting	Actively contributes at least half of the time during term	Actively contributes less than half of the time during term	Does not contribute

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Quality of class participation*	Contribution is always thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, frequently interacting with peers	Contribution is mostly thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, usually interacting with peers	Contribution is somewhat thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, sometimes interacting with peers	Contribution is rarely thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, rarely interacting with peers	Does not contribute or interact with peers
Level of class preparation	Always fully prepared and on task	Mostly prepared and on task	Somewhat prepared and on task	Rarely prepared and on task	Consistently unprepared.

Readings & Resources

Aibar, Eduardo., & Weibe. E. Bijker, Constructing a City: The Cerdàs Plan for the Extension of Barcelona, in *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 22, no.1(Winter 1997): 3-30.

http://www.uoc.edu/webs/eaibar/_resources/documents/Aibar-Bijker.pdf

Amelang, J. S., McDonogh, G. W., & Pujol, J. G. *Twelve Walks Through Barcelona's Past: Guidebook*. Olimpíada Cultural, Tipografia Emporium,1992.

Benach, Nuria. Public Spaces in Barcelona 1980-2000, in Marshall, T. (Ed). *Transforming Barcelona*. London: Routledge (2003): 151-159.

Burton, E., Jenks, M., & Williams, K. *The Compact City: A Sustainable Urban Form?* Routledge, 2003.

Busquets, Joan. *Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City*. Nicolodi & Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Actar Distribution, 2006.

Carmona, Eugenio (Ed.). *Picasso Dalí Miró. Angry Young Men and the Birth of Modernity*. Skira, 2011.

Castellar-Gassol Joan. (1999) *Gaudi the Life of a Visionary*. Edic.1984, 1999.

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- Choay, Françoise. *The Modern City: Planning in the 19th Century*. New York: Braziller, 1969.
- Cirlot, Juan Eduardo. *Gaudi: Introduction to his Architecture*. Triangle Postal, 2011.
- Corbusier, Le. *The City of To-morrow and its Planning*. Courier Corporation, 1987.
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- De la Peña, David. *The Barcelona Model 1973-2004*. Barcelona: Ajuntament de Barcelona and Department of Architectural Composition of the ETSAB, 2011.
- Delevoy, R. L., Vidler, A., Krier, L., & Scolari, M. *Rational Architecture: The Reconstruction of the European City*. Archives D'Architecture Modern, 1978.
- De Solà-Morales, Manuel. *Ten Lessons on Barcelona*. COAC, Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya, 2008.
- Eco, Umberto. *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*. Yale University Press, 1986.
- Esteban, Juli. The Planning Project: Bringing Value to the Periphery, Recovering the Center, in Marshall, Tim. (Ed.) *Transforming Barcelona*. London: Routledge (2004): 111-149.
- Fraser, Benjamin. A Beautiful City: Alejandro González Iñárritu's Filmic Critique of The Barcelona Model. *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas* 8, n2 (2012):19-54.
- Galofaro, Luca. *Artscapes: Art as an Approach to Contemporary Landscape*. Barcelona: GG, 2003.
- Huyssen, Andreas. *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2004.
- Ingrosso, Chiara. *Barcelona: Architecture, City and Society 1975-2015*. Torino: Skira, 2011.
- Kligman, Anna. Beyond Bilbao in *Brandscapes: Architecture in the Experience Economy*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007.
- Kostof, Spiro & Castillo, Greg. *The City Assembled: The Elements of Urban Form Through History*. Bulfinch Press, 1992.

- López Guallar, Marina (ed.). Cerdà and the First Barcelona Metropolis, 1853 – 1897. MUHBA, Museu d'Historia de Barcelona, 2009.
https://www.barcelona.cat/museuhistoria/sites/default/files/cerda_eng.pdf
- Lynch Kevin. *The Image of the City. A Theory of Good City Form*. MIT Press, 1960.
- Marshall, Tim. *Transforming Barcelona*. London: Routledge, 2004.
- McNeill, Donald. The Politics of Architecture in Barcelona, in *Treballs de la Societat Catalana de Geografia*, vol. 61-62 (2008): 167-175.
<https://revistes.iec.cat/index.php/TSCG/article/view/41211.001>
- Meisler, Stanley. *Gaudí's Gift*. Smithsonian (July 2002).
<https://www.stanleymeisler.com/article/gaudis-gift>
- Minder, Raphael. Catalonia's Great Melting Pot, in *The Struggle for Catalonia*. London: Hurst. (2017): 95-112.
- Montagut, T., Vilà, G., & Riutort, S. Barcelona: A Citizen's Agreement for an Inclusive City, in *Social Innovations in the Urban Context* Springer, Cham (2016): 273-279.
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- Muñoz, Francesc. Urbanalization: Common Landscapes, Global Places, in *The Open Urban Studies Journal*, Nº 3 (2012): 78-88.
- Nash, Steven. A. (Ed.) *Picasso & the War Years 1939-1945*. Thames & Hudson; Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, 1998.
- Orwell, George. *Homage to Catalonia*. London: Penguin in association with Martin Secker & Warburg, 1989.
- Resina, Joan Ramón. The Bourgeois City, in *Barcelona's Vocation of Modernity: Rise and Decline of an Urban Image*. Stanford (2008):10-62.
- Robinson, W. H., Falgàs, J. & Lord, C. B. Eds. *Barcelona and Modernity. Picasso, Gaudí, Dalí. Miró*. Cleveland Museum of Art; Yale University Press, 2007.
- Rowe, Peter. G. *Building Barcelona: A Second Renaixença*. Actar/birkhauser, 2006.

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Schapiro, Meyer. On the Aesthetic Attitude in Romanesque Art, In
Romanesque Art, Selected Papers George Braziller (1977):1-27.

Content

Topic 1 – The City as Artifact (3-4 sessions)

- Introduction: The City Building Process
- Early Mediterranean Cities
- From Barcino to Barcinova
- Art & Architecture Intertwined: Romanesque and Gothic Heritage

Topic 2 – The City Under Siege (3-4 sessions)

- The Succession War
- City Pattern: From Organic to Planned Growth
- Renaissance Utopia and the Ideal City: The Ciutadella Fortress
- First Modern Extension Plan: Barceloneta

Topic 3 – The City on Display (3-4 sessions)

- The Emergence of the Industrial City: Compared Perspectives
- Cerda's Extension Plan: The Grid System
- City Marketing: The 1888's and the 1929's International World Fairs
- Gaudi and the Catalan Modernism

Topic 4 – The City as Machine (3-4 Sessions)

- Modern Architecture and the European Vanguards
- Picasso, Miro and the GATPAC
- City at War: The Interrupted Modernity
- Modern Artists and Architects in Exile

Topic 5 – The City [Re]Construction (3-4 Sessions)

- The Uprising of the Olympic City
- Democratic Restoration: From the Center to the Margins
- The Barcelona Model: Public Art and Public Place Developments
- Micro-Acupuncture: Rebuilding the Historical Center

Topic 6 – The Smart City (3-4 Sessions)

- Postindustrial Heritage: Poblenou 22@ and Forum de les Cultures
- The Glories' HUB: Innovation, Sustainability and Green Corridors
- The Superblocks Program and the Walkable-City
- Prospective City: Agenda for a Critical Debate

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NOTE: Each of the 6 topics is associated to one (1) guided field study course component (guided excursion, guest lecture, etc.).

** Syllabus is subject to minor changes in term-specific syllabus at instructor discretion.*