Barcelona and Catalonia in a Globalized World (v.2016)

Course Overview
Title: Barcelona and Catalonia in a Globalized World
Hours: 50
Number of Credits: 5
Prerequisites: None
Type of Course: SOC / ANTH / POL SCI
Term: Winter, Spring, Summer
Language: English
Instructor: Manish Singh
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Course Description
This core course introduces the student to contemporary issues in Barcelona and Catalonia by paying close attention to its cultural, historic, and artistic patrimony. It begins by exploring the pressing issues of today -- the question of independence in Catalonia and the widely acclaimed "Barcelona Model." This latter phenomenon was part urban redevelopment and part marketing strategy. Since the Olympics of 1992, Barcelona has become a leading globalized city, boasting star architects, world-famous chefs, and massive international events. The course then examines the historical origins of this phenomenon by explaining how a once sleepy medieval city transformed itself into the most industrialized city on the Mediterranean during the world's "first globalization." Ultimately, the city turned cosmopolitan, earning the reputation of "A Paris of the South." Catalan architects, such as Antoni Gaudi, became founders of the international movement known as "modernism." Catalonia was also the cradle for the development of world-renown painters such as Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, and Salvador Dali. The course will demonstrate how this cultural and artistic patrimony became integrated into a model of urban and regional planning that has been successfully marketed to an international public. Its methods are cross-disciplinary and the readings include authors from various areas of the social sciences (urban geographers, anthropologists, sociologists, historians), art and literary critics, business and marketing experts, and journalists.

Thematic Outline
1. The Question of Independence in Catalonia
2. The Barcelona Model of Urban Development: Marketing the City in a Globalized World
3. Catalonia in the Industrial Age
4. The Cosmopolitan City of Architects and Artists
5. Present and Future: Barcelona in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century
Method of Evaluation

The method of evaluation will include a “mock” midterm exam, a final exam (40% percent), class participation (20 percent), and a paper (40%). The student can tailor the paper to his or her interests, by choosing a topic that concerns business and marketing, art or architecture, or the history of the city and the region.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and only 1 absence will be tolerated without penalty. For every additional absence the final grade will be lowered by half a letter grade.

Weekly schedule

Week 1 (June 29, June 30, July 4)

1. The Question of Independence in Catalonia. Thematic outline

   Lecture: The Geographic and Demographic Landscape of Catalonia.
   Lecture: Contested Nationhood and Asymmetric Federalism.
   Secessionism
   Field Study: Institutions of Catalan Government and Commerce

2. Readings.


Week 2 (July 5, 6 and 7)

THE BARCELONA MODEL OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITY. FROM THE ROMAN TIMES TO 19TH CENTURY

Thematic outline:

   Lecture: Roman, Medieval and Early Modern Catalonia
   Lecture: The Union with Spain, the Reapers War, the War of Spanish Succession and the integration with Spain.
   Fieldtrip: Walking tour: Roman and Medieval sites
Readings:


**Week 3 (July 11, 12 and 13)**

THE BARCELONA MODEL OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITY. FROM THE EIXAMPLE TO THE END OF FRANCOISM

Thematic outline:

Lecture: The Eixample, the Exhibition of 1888 and the birth of Modernism.
Lecture: The City of Gaudi`s and Picasso`s. The 1920s and the Civil War.
Introduction to the Civil War
Fieldstudy: Walking tour of the Modernist and Civil War sites.

Readings:


**Week 4 (July 18, 19, 20)**


Thematic outline:

Lecture: The Franco years. The destruction of Barcelona and the attacks on Catalan culture.
Lecture: The transition, the 1980s, the Olympics and the Post-Olympics.
Fieldstudy: Walking tour of the Olympic sites in Montjuic

Readings:

Week 5 (July 25, 26, and 27)

CATALONIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CRITICISM OF THE BARCELONA MODEL. AN INDEPENDENT CATALONIA?

Thematic outline:

Lecture: The current challenges of Barcelona and Catalonia today.
Lecture: The debate on secessionism

FINAL EXAM: JULY 27

Reading:


Sample Bibliography


Kathryn Crameri, *¿Goodbye, Spain? The Question of Independence for Catalonia* (Sussex: University of Sussex Press, 2014)


Andrew Dowling, *Catalonia since the Spanish Civil War: Reconstructing the Nation* (Sussex: Sussex Academic Press, 2013)


Lawrence A. Herzog, “‘City of Architects’: Public Space and the Resurgence of Barcelona” in *Return to the Center: Culture, Public Space, and City Building in the Global Era* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006), pp. 91-104.


