

Seminar: *17th Century Catalonia: Peoples, Geography and Society before and after the War of Segadors*

Course: INTL 410 – Cultural, Educational, Active Seminars and Workshops

Series: 17th century Catalunya – Pyrenees mountains – Architecture, History, Culture, and Nature

Leader: ALBA Study Abroad/Spanish Trails in Barcelona, Spain via the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Int'l Global Studies, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, USA.

Location: Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

Contact hours: 8–12 hours over the course of one day OR more than one day (inquire, pls).

Undergraduate Credit/CEU: 1 credit/1 unit

Day of the week offered: Most days of the week, year-round, open enrollment

Logistics: If you do not have your own vehicle you can pre-arrange to leave Barcelona at 9:00h with the group leader in the bus or vehicle he will be driving (free of charge).

Schedule: 9h to 18.30h

SEMINAR STRUCTURE

- **Pre-reading:** Downloadable PDF(s) or web based articles
- **Full-day field study:** composed of site visits, discussion and task(s). 8–12 hours.
- **Research Paper:** Topic and due date to be decided on day of the seminar

FIELD STUDY DESCRIPTION

This is a full-day active seminar dedicated to the study, understanding and enjoyment of some of the key elements that define 17th century Catalonia post-medieval/pre-industrial revolution as well as the opportunity for a comparative study of the Euro-Asian vegetation found in this area of the Pyrenees to that of the more prevalent Mediterranean vegetation, all of which contributed to the development, diversity and perseverance of the regional communities during that time. The day is centered on the 17th century village of Rupit located in the Collsacabra mountain range in the Catalan Pyrenees, with emphasis over the effects of the *War of Segadors* and the Black Plague over the economical and social order. Rupit is renown for being one of the definitive patrimonial sites of interest in Catalonia for its unique, well-preserved Baroque architecture from that era (church of Sant Miquel which is visited) and it's classic model of economical development and sustainability during two centuries until the rural exodus that was provoked by the Spanish American colonies and subsequent industrial revolution in urban populace such as Barcelona. Additionally, the accessible natural surroundings of the Collsacabra range allow for a unique, experiential learning opportunity regarding the aforementioned Euro-Asian flora and to learn about the diverse, abundant herbs, flowers, fungi, etc. that have brought Catalan cuisine to being a leader in Mediterranean, European and World cuisine. The lunch break around 15h allows for a discussion and comparative of ideas while enjoying great traditional Catalan fare in a 200-year old restaurant.

ITINERARY

10h Meet at the entrance to Rupit village at the Forn de l'Era bakery unless otherwise informed.

10.30h Briefing of the day and pre-questions and observations with the group leader.

11h Walk-through of the village of Rupit from one end to the other with multiple stops for explanation and discussion including the old mills of the central river, the Baroque church of San Miquel, the local artisan homes, forges, workshops and plazas and streets which marked and delineated the local economic hierarchy of workers, guilds and other residents from the transient merchants and travelers.

13h. Joined by a local 'rupitenc' to explore one of the many age paths to learn about the import

distinction of the Euro-Asian flora. Explanation and opportunity to try century-old plant scouting and harvesting basics that the locals have always used in navigating the regions seasonality, changeable weather patterns and challenging topography. Enjoy incredible panoramic views of the river canyon and valleys below and close-by Pyrenees peaks. Photographers should bring their cameras. All should wear sturdy, comfortable footwear.

15h. Lunch and discussion.

16.30h Depart Rupit

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Program follow-up and completion: You'll receive a follow-up email within 24 hours from the group leader with a re-cap of the day's events and discussions, additional notes and research paper completion/submission instruction.