



CIEE Barcelona, Spain

Course name:	Urban Culture in Contemporary Barcelona
Course number:	HISP 3001 BASP
Programs offering course:	Barcelona Business and Culture, Barcelona Economics and Culture, Barcelona Global Architecture and Design, Barcelona Language and Culture
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

Barcelona is well known as a prototype for the creative city, where different forms of urban culture are constantly emerging, reinventing the city itself. Contemporary arts and alternative literature and music styles are redefining the urban landscape of Barcelona in the XXI century, blending together local and international references.

In this course students will actively explore and critically analyze the urban culture of contemporary Barcelona. Analysis will focus on key aspects of the global urban movement such as graffiti artists, skateboarders, multifunctional art-galleries, electronic and techno music festivals, video artists and comic book writers, to name a few. A series of fieldtrips will guide students through the creation of a mental topography map of the new Barcelona to develop insights on the local cultural forms' connections to wider global trends.

Learning Objectives

In this course:

- Students will learn the history and evolution of key emerging representatives of urban cultural production
- Students will analyze comparisons between emerging youth cultures and traditional representations of Spanish culture.
- Students will learn to engage in local urban practices and critically reflect and analyze their importance in a wider global context.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

Students will participate in instructor-led lectures, watch documentary films and engage in in-class



discussions. Students will also apply in-class learning to participant observation in site visits.

Assessment and Final Grade

In this course the assessment will be based on the following items, explained below:

1.	Final Paper or Visual Essay	20%
2.	Oral Presentation	20%
3.	Midterm Exam	20%
4.	Final Exam	20%
5.	Class participation	20%

Course Requirements

Final Essay or Visual Essay

The students will be required to choose one topic related to the subject to research and think about it. It can be a topic related directly to the topics that were worked at class or another one related to urban culture (previously asked to the professor).

- In case of choosing the classic final essay, the requirements are: about 5 pages; spacing should be 1.5 and the alignment changed to fully justified.
- In case of choosing a visual essay, the students may use any of these visual formats: Prezi, video, ppt or Pinterest board. The requirements are:
 - o Prezi and ppt (about 10 slides)
 - o Video: about 5 minutes' length
 - o Pinterest board: 10-15 images with image description

In both cases, at least 6 scholarly sources must be used.

Grading scale in both cases:

1. Is the question fully answered, the topic understood in depth and a development and support of the argument visible?
2. Is the essay well organized, showing a bibliography with the necessary support of sources (no Wikipedia or blog-entries are accepted) and is it well written?
3. Is the essay thoughtful, deep, CREATIVE, and far-reaching in its analysis? You can use of course also your opinion.

Other important points about the paper: DO not merely state the obvious or repeat others' viewpoint. The reader must feel that the writer is in control of the direction and organization of the essay. Scholarly sources must be used. Wikipedia and personal blogs are NOT accepted.

Oral presentation

On the first day of class, the instructor will provide a list of topics by subject via Canvas. Students will choose one topic and on a specific date will deliver a 10-15 minutes in-class oral presentation that



includes a visual component (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.).

Midterm Exam

Short and long questions about the course content. The midterm is composed of:

- 1st part: a test of 10 questions (multiple-choice and true or false type) (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 2nd part: 5 short questions (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 3rd part: Analysis question: you can choose between two topics to explain one of them (maximum punctuation: 4 points).

Final Exam

Short and long questions about the course content. The exam is composed of:

- 1st part: a test of 10 questions (multiple-choice and true or false type) (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 2nd part: 5 short questions (maximum punctuation: 3 points).
- 3rd part: Analysis question: you can choose between two topics to explain one of them (maximum punctuation: 4 points).

Class participation

Active participation is required in all classes. Different activities will be done in class, but in order to evaluate participation, the student has to complete 4 specific quizzes on Canvas (each one equals 5% of the final grade). These exercises also will be part of the discussion in class. Besides the following explanations, these tasks will be defined and explained further by the instructor during the previous sessions. Late quizzes will not be admitted.

- Quiz 1: Quiz about the documentary film *A normal country* (2014) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMDpb4qn4ZE> and the related article "Catalans recast Spanish history in drive for independence" (*The Guardian*, 2014): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/27/catalan-leader-calls-independence-vote>
- Quiz 2: Quiz about the film *Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona* (Woody Allen, 2008) and *Biutiful* (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010).
- Quiz 3: Quiz about the documentary *Bye, Bye, Barcelona* (2014) and the related article of "Mass tourism can kill a city" (*The Guardian*, 2014): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdXcFChRpml>
- Quiz 4: Quiz about the comic -and animated film- *Wrinkles*, by Paco Roca (2015) <http://www.watchanimemovie.com/sub-dub/wrinkles.html> and the related article "Wrinkles by Paco Roca review" (*The Guardian*, 2015): <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/feb/13/wrinkles-paco-roca-review-graphic-novel-older-people-alzheimers>

Laptops are not welcomed unless the professor says otherwise in the specific case of some classroom activities.

CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy



Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day's class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 5 class sessions, students' final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 5 absences).

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

- 1.1 Introduction to Barcelona city & course description
- 1.2 A brief historical introduction

Week 2

- 2.1 A look at contemporary Catalan politics. A city between identities.
Reading: "Catalans recast Spanish history in drive for independence" (The Guardian, 2014).
Mandatory Quiz 1: Quiz about the documentary film *Adéu Espanya* (2010) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMDpb4qn4ZE> and the related article "Catalans recast Spanish history in drive for independence" (The Guardian, 2014): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/27/catalan-leader-calls-independence-vote>
- 2.2 A look at contemporary Catalan politics. A city between identities.
On site class: Parliament of Catalonia

Week 3

- 3.1 Barcelona Brand: the redesign of the Olympic Barcelona. The Global Projection of Barcelona
Mandatory Quiz 2: Quiz about the film *Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona* (Woody Allen, 2008) and *Beautiful* (Alejandro González Iñárritu, 2010).
Oral presentation: Barcelona's branding.
Reading: John Hargreaves "Public opinion, national integration and national identity

in Spain: the case of the Barcelona Olympic Games”.

- 3.2 Gentrified Barcelona and redesigning the urbanism of the city: superblocks
 Oral presentation: What is Gentrification and how affects a city?
 Reading: Degen, Mónica, and Marisol García. "The transformation of the 'Barcelona model': an analysis of culture, urban regeneration and governance".

Week 4

- 4.1 22@ and Poblenou, Neighbourhood of design
 On site class: "Scavenger hunt".
- 4.2 Barcelona and the controversy about the Touristic explosion
 Oral presentation: Tourism at Barcelona.
 Mandatory Quiz 3: Quiz about the documentary *Bye, Bye, Barcelona* (2014) and the related article of "Mass tourism can kill a city" (*The Guardian*, 2014):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdXcFChRpmI>
 Reading: García, Beatriz. "Urban regeneration, arts programming and Major events: Glasgow 1990, Sydney 2000 and Barcelona 2004."

Week 5

- 5.1 Not only Gaudí: the other modernist artists.
 On site class: a walk through some of the (other) modernist façades at the city center.
 Oral presentation: Modernism at Barcelona
 Oral presentation: Gaudí
 Oral presentation: Josep Puig I Cadafalch
 Oral presentation: Domènech I Muntaner

- 5.2 Review for the midterm

Week 6

- 6.1 MIDTERM
- 6.2 On site class: not only Gaudí: a walk through some of the (other) modernist façades at the city center.

Week 7

- 7.1 On site activity in groups: ("Your Barcelona").
 Recording a 5 minutes' original video in groups about your vision, perspective and experience so far at the city of Barcelona. (More guidelines will be provided at class).
- 7.2 The art of graffiti in Barcelona. The origins of graffiti in Barcelona and the problem of the authorities' ban
 Oral presentation: Street art.
 Activity: Video essay about the urban art in Barcelona. Recording a 5

minutes original video in groups about your vision, perspective and experience so far at the city of Barcelona. (More guidelines will be provided at class).

Reading: Ganz, Nicholas, Manco, Tristan (ed.), *Graffiti World. Street Art from Five Continents*. New York, Abrams, 2009.

Week 8

8.1 The art of graffiti in Barcelona.
On site class: El Borne & Gothic Street art tour.

8.2 Contemporary tv in Barcelona
Oral presentation: History of Spanish and Catalan tv
Oral presentation: Contemporary Spanish tv

Week 9

9.1 Description of content: Contemporary tv in Barcelona
Guest lecture: by the professional tv critic Pere Solà Gimferrer, from the Newspaper *La Vanguardia*.

9.2 Cinema in Barcelona
Oral presentation: History of Spanish and Catalan cinema
Oral presentation: Contemporary cinema in Spain.

Week 10

10.1 Cinema in Barcelona
Activity: Urban culture film awards

10.2 A brief history of comic and cartoon in Barcelona
Oral presentation: *Wrinkles*, by Paco Roca.
Oral presentation: The emblematic TBO.
Mandatory Quiz 4: Quiz about the comic -and animated film- *Wrinkles*, by Paco Roca (2015) <http://www.watchanimemovie.com/sub-dub/wrinkles.html> and the related article "*Wrinkles* by Paco Roca review" (*The Guardian*, 2015): <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/feb/13/wrinkles-paco-roca-review-graphic-novel-older-people-alzheimers>

Week 11

11.1 The gastronomy: From humble origins to the haute cuisine elite.
Oral presentation: Typical dishes in Barcelona.
Reading: Silviya Svejnova "Cooking Up Change in Haute Cuisine: Ferran Adrià as an Institutional Entrepreneur"
Class activity: Santa Catarina market. Look for a traditional Catalan/Spanish recipe; Buy the ingredients at the market and cook it or prepare it for bringing to class next day to share with the group.

11.2 Contemporary Spanish & Catalan music



Some music of the immediate past. Festivals and music agenda in Barcelona and Catalonia.

Oral presentation: Catalan Rumba

Oral presentation: Catalan Rock

Week 12

12.1 Contemporary Spanish & Catalan music
Master class by Paula Domínguez, Spanish professional musician, specialized in flamenco and contemporary music.
Class activity: delivery of the final essay

12.2 Final exam review

Week 13

13.1 Description of content: Final term

Course Materials

Readings and filmography

Degen, Mónica, and Marisol García. "The transformation of the 'Barcelona model': an analysis of culture, urban regeneration and governance." *International journal of urban and regional research* 36.5 (2012): 1022-1038.

Ganz, Nicholas, Manco, Tristan (ed.), *Graffiti World. Street Art from Five Continents*. New York, Abrams, 2009.

García, Beatriz. "Urban regeneration, arts programming and major events: Glasgow 1990, Sydney 2000 and Barcelona 2004." *International journal of cultural policy* 10.1 (2004): 103-118.

Hargreaves, John. "Public opinion, national integration and national identity in Spain: the case of the Barcelona Olympic Games" *Nations and nationalism* 3.1 (1997): 65-87.

Svejenova, Silviya. "Cooking Up Change in Haute Cuisine: Ferran Adrià as an Institutional Entrepreneur" *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 28(5), 539-561.