

THE IMAGE OF BARCELONA IN LITERATURE

Total length of the module: 45 hours

Number of sessions: 30

Length of each session: 1,5 h

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

After the Olympic Games of 1992, Barcelona became an international tourist destination; but a short visit cannot account for the cultural complexities of the Catalan capital. In order to know any city, to “dwell” in it, we need to become familiar with its oral history, paintings, architecture, sculpture, and literary texts.

More specifically, the more we learn about the literature of Barcelona, the more we shall know about its culture, past and present. For this reason this course will explore the city through the eyes of artists and writers. We shall start in the nineteenth century with the rise of the modern metropolis that we know today and finish with the post-Olympic urban reality of the twenty-first century.

Students will encounter a wide variety of materials– poetry, novel, theater and essay– and will be expected to study them with a critical eye, applying additional historical, cultural and theoretical readings. Our goal will be to arrive at a greater knowledge of the city and its context, as well as the literature surrounding it.

REQUIREMENTS

- Fluency in English
- Interest in literature

CONTENTS

The content of the course might be subject to minor changes depending on the class dynamic. ALL readings will be provided by the instructor.

- The literary Image: Imagology
- Brief history of Spain, Catalonia and Barcelona
- Barcelona in the XIX Century: The birth of a new city
- European Romanticism and the rebirth of Catalan culture
- Jacint Verdaguer and *Ode to Barcelona*: Idealization of the City
- Demolition of the medieval walls and The Cerdà Plan
- European Realism
- Narcís Oller and *The Stockbroker*: A city under construction
- The crisis of 1898 and The Tragic Week
- Joan Maragall and *New Ode to Barcelona* and *Ode to Spain*
- Revolutionary Barcelona: The Rose of Fire
- Joan Salvat Papasseit and *Nostalgia for Tomorrow* and *The job I like best*: The working class perspective

- The Civil War
- George Orwell and Homage to Catalonia
- General Franco's Dictatorship
- Mercè Rodoreda and *The Time of the Doves*
- The transition to democracy
- Quim Monzó's short stories: The Postmodern dissolution of the urban center

GRADING

Midterm Exam (20%): This exam will consist of a series of questions that ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material covered in class.

Research Paper (35%): Students will write a term paper. Papers are to be approximately 8 pages in length. At least 5 scholarly sources must be used. Topics will be discussed individually with the professor.

Final Exam (35%): This exam will consist of a series of questions that ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material covered in class in addition to their capacity for in-depth textual analysis.

Class participation (10%): Participation and reading of the texts cannot be enforced; however, if a student wants to achieve an outstanding mark, they will be absolutely necessary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BELLER, M. *Perception, image, imagology* in *Imagology*. Amsterdam-New York: Rodopi, 2007.

CERVERA, Joseph Phillip. *Modernismo: The Catalan Renaissance of the Arts*. New York: Garland, 1976.

FELDMAN, Sharon G. *In the eye of the storm: Contemporary theater in Barcelona*. Lewisburg. Bucknell University Press, 2009

GRAHAM, Helen and Jo LABANYI, eds. *Spanish Cultural Studies: An Introduction: The Struggle for Modernity*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995

HUGHES, Robert. *Barcelona*. New York: Knopf/Random House, 1992.

LEHAN, Richard. *The city in Literature: An intellectual and cultural history*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

LEERSEN, Joep. *Imagology: History and method* in *Imagology*. Amsterdam-New York: Rodopi, 2007, pages 17-31.

RESINA, Joan Ramon. *Barcelona's vocation of modernity: Rise and decline of an urban image*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2008.

TERRY, Arthur. *A Companion to Catalan Literature*. London: Tamesis Books, 2010.