TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Art & Culture in Spain & Catalonia: 2000 years of beauty

UGRA_000560

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	5
Teacher responsible	Alejandro Fernández de Castro Krings - alex.fernandezdecastro@esade.edu

Course Goals

Students will develop several skills: Knowledge acquisition, comprehension and structuring, learning how to learn & Intellectual curiosity

Prerequisits

No previous knowledge about Spanish Art or Culture is necessary.

Teaching methodology

A different artist or Cultural manifestation will be discussed every class. 80% attendance and active participation from students will be required. Participants will have to write two mini-follow-up tests, on final essay, make one individual or group presentation about a relevant local site or museum, and contribute to on-line forums of discussion.

Description

Course contribution to program

This course will provide students with a well rounded education in Art, Culture, Social Sciences and Humanities, beyond their Business Courses. Besides acquiring skills to appreciate and understand Spanish Art and Culture, they will leave the course better equiped to interact with Spanish professionals in the future, since they will share with their Spanish counterparts common artisitic and cultural references.

Short description

This course will provide students with a deeper understanding of Arts and Culture in recent Spanish history through some of the best Spanish and Catalan art produced in the 19th, 20th and 21st Century. Other Cultural manifestations such as Football, Spanish Pop Music, or Bullfighting will also be analysed for the same purpose.

25 hour long course (10 sessions, 2,5 hours each), taught in English, to discuss main Spanish artists and Cultural traditions, which illustrate Political and Social changes in Spain through the XIXth, XXth and XXIst centuries.

Bibliography

Robert Hughes, "Barcelona", Vintage Books, Random House, 1992

Robert Hugues, "Barcelona", Random House, 1992 (Book)

Françoise Gilot, "Life With Picasso", Little, Brown, 1990 (Book)

Roland Penrose, "Joan Miró", Thames & Hudson, 1990 (Book)

Salvador Dalí, "The Secret Life Of Salvador Dalí", Kessinger Publishing, 2010 (Book)

Phil Ball, “Morbo: The Story of Spanish Football”, WSC Books Limited, 2003 (Book)

Ernest Hemingway, “Death in the afternoon”, Arrow Books, London, 2004 (Book)
, "A day at Elbulli: An insight into the ideas, methods and creativity of Ferran Adrià", PHAJQ, 2019 (Book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates
Impromptu debates and conversations about Spanish Food, Morals and Art, Meaning of Art or Bullfighting will be encouraged in class.

Analytical exercises
Students will have to contribute analysis and opinions to several forums of opinion, which will be posted on the moodle page, for every student to read.

Written and/or oral exams
Students will take two 15 minute-long mini-tests (mid-term and final), multiple choice style, consisting of 50 questions (a,b,c format, only one possible right answer). No point will be deducted for wrong answers

Readings
About 50 % of the class will consist of lectures carried by the professor

Presentations
Students will deliver one oral presentation, either individually or as a group, about a museum, restaurant, performance, or any other cultural activity in Barcelona, Catalunya or Spain.

Essays
Each student will write a final paper in word and pdf format, to be uploaded onto the moodle page. Minimum length, 4 pages, double spaced. Par a) main take-aways from the course, part b) favourite cultural activities done while in Spain

Content

#	Topic
1	Joan Miró (1893-1983) and The Meaning of Art
2	Spanish Food: Main Ingredients, Food By Region, Barcelona Restaurants
3	Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) + Morals and Art
4	History of Spanish Pop Music (1959 to present)

#	Topic
5	Salvador Gaudí (1852-1926) and Catalan Modernism
6	Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)
7	Football in Spain: Nothing Matters More
8	Bullfighting. Art? Culture? Tradition? Brutality?
9	Flamenco: Spain Becomes Beauty
10	Christmas In Spain (Only in Fall Edition). In Spring, this session is substituted by "Barcelona, 2000 Years of Beauty", which covers the evolution of Barcelona over the Centuries.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams	Mini-tests (mid-term and final)	Ordinary round	40.00%
Participation in program activities	Classroom participation: contribution to forums, attendance, individual or group presentation	Ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project	Final essay	Ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project		Retake	100.00%

PROGRAMS

AI26-Exchange Program Bachelor in Business and Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduates: Business)
AI26 Year 1 (Optative)

AI26S-Exchange Program Bachelor in Business and Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduates: Business)
AI26S Year 1 (Optative)

B13-Exchange Program Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
B13 Year 1 (Optative)

B13S-Exchange Program Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
B13S Year 1 (Optative)