
AH/US230 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS IN BARCELONA: AN ARTSITC APPROACH
IES Barcelona Syllabus – Last updated: April 16th, 2008

DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on four international cultural events that have determined the world-wide launching of the city of Barcelona as a renowned Art window: the 1888 World Fair, the 1929 International Fair, the 1992 Olympic Games and the 2004 Forum of Cultures. These key happenings highlight important periods in the art history in Barcelona along with the urban transformations that the city has experienced. The course will review the artistic, architectural developments in each of these periods. (3 credits)

INSTRUCTOR: Isabel Sánchez

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures: Visual support according to the session's contents.

Presentations: Students are expected to participate in classes and will make short presentations based on the course readings.

Field studies: guided visits to significant sites related to the content of the course. Each student must complete a field journal relating the four field study visits.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAM (50%); JOURNALS (10%); ORAL PRESENTATION (10%); PAPER (15%); PARTICIPATION (15%)

IES ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. Students are permitted 3 absences in IES area studies courses and 5 absences in IES Spanish language courses with no impact on the final grade. These include absences due to illness, delayed flights, interviews, family celebrations, or any other personal commitments. Beyond these absences, one half of a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for each additional absence. If a student is absent more than 7 times for area studies courses or 10 times for language courses, the student will receive an F for the course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the course, students are able to:

- Summarize Barcelona's recent history, urban transformations and the legacy that the international events left in the city of Barcelona.
- Identify the main features of art movements during the times of each one of the international events considered (Modernism, Eclecticism, Urban Art...);
- Distinguish and compare the Barcelona's art, architecture to a broader European context.
- Establish the relationship between social achievements, urban transformation and art creation in recent and contemporary Barcelona.

CONTENT:

Session 1: General overview of the course. Introduction: What is Art? Why do we study Art?

Required readings: none

Session 2: Fairs in the History of Art. Key concepts. World fair, International fair, International Exhibition, National fair... What are they? Their importance in the 19th century.

Required readings:

Greenhalgh, pp. 1-26

Session 3: The new and modern Barcelona. Barcelona: a city in expansion. New political, social and cultural conditions.

Required readings:

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Hughes, pp. 311-332

Session 4: The 1888 world Fair location. History of the Parc de la Ciutadela. Fontserè project. The 1888 world Fair and main Buildings left. The Triumphal Arch.

Required readings:

Hughes, pp. 354-373

Session 5: Iron glass and prefabrication in Europe. The iron structures in the Park project. Barcelona markets: Boqueria, Sta Caterina, El Born, St Antoni. **Art nouveau** movement in Europe.

Required readings:

Hughes, pp. 343-354.

Session 6: **Lluís Domenech i Montaner**

Castell dels tres dragons (the café restaurant of the Fair) Domenech i Montaner. Modernist architecture I

Required readings: Bohigas, pp 24-26

Session 7: **Field study I:** The 1888 Fair location

L'Arch de triumph. Parc de la Ciutadela: L'Hivernacle,

Castell dels tres dragons. Les Cascades.

Required readings: None

Session 8: Gaudi's Casa Vicens (1888) and Gaudi's Palau Güell (1889): a new type of Architecture.

Modernist Architecture II

Required readings:

Permanyer, pp. 54-58

Session 9: Puig I Cadafach Architecture between Modernisme and Noucentisme . 1888 World Fair.

Catalan art, Llimona, Casas and Rusiñol

Required readings:

Hughes, pp. 425-448

Session 10: The 1929 International Exhibition

The second opening of the city. The Master plan and the Exhibition buildings and main buildings on Montjuic hill. European artistic context. **1920s Avant-garde**

Required readings:

Schneider Adams, vol II, pp. 835-857

Session 11: Modernity at the fair: the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion 1929 (German Pavilion) The European Avant-garde movements: Bauhaus, De Stijl, Russian Constructivism.

Required readings:

Schneider Adams, vol. II, pp. 850-857

Session 12: **Midterm exam**

Required readings: None

Session 13: Olympic Games.

The third launching events: New political, social and cultural conditions. The Olympic Games impulse.

Required readings:

McNeill, pp. 82-109

Session 14: **Field study II:** Field trip: Montjuic hill as a scene of the 1929 International Fair, as well as the location for the Olympic Games' buildings.

Required readings: None

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Session 15: The 1929 Heritage: the Olympic Stadium. The Olympic Ring
Master plan, Palau San Jordi by Arata Isozaki, Telefonica Communication Tower by Santiago Calatrava,
Collserola Tower, Norman Foster.

Required readings: None

Session 16: Oral presentations

Required readings: None

Session 17: ...

Session 18: Barcelona renewal. Olympic emplacement in the city. Public space, public art.

Required readings:

McNeill, pp. 44-53

Session 19: A city proud of itself.

City sculpture all over the city. Frank Gehry's monumental fish-shaped pergola, Mistos by Cleas
Oldenburg; Barcelona Head, Cilindre L'Estel ferit.

Required readings:

Gombrich E.H., pp. 136-161

Session 20: Oral presentations

Required readings: None

Session 21: **The Forum of Cultures 2004**

Barcelona's recent developments. The 22@ new technological district.

Forum master plan and the idea of sustainable architecture. The Forum exhibitions and entertainments
during the event.

Required readings: None

Session 22: **The Forum of Cultures 2004.** Architectural site, Forum building and the Explanade, the
idea of sustainable architecture.

Required readings: None

Session 23: Oral presentations

Required readings: None

Session 24: Oral presentation. Conclusions and final comments.

Required readings: None

Final Exam

REQUIRED READING:

Curtis, William J.R (1986). *Le Corbusier. Ideas and Forms.* Rizzoli, New York.

Crowhurst Lennard. Suzane H. (1997). *Making cities livable. Architecture, Place, Community,
Neighborhood, Identity, Planning and Values.* Lennard&Crowhurst Editors, Carmel, USA

Frampton, Kenneth (1980). *Modern Architecture a critical history.* Thames and Hudson Ltd,
London, England.

Kostof, Spiro (1991). *The City Shaped, Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History.* Boston, Bulfinch
Press, USA

Kostof, Spiro (1992). Greg Castillo, Richard Tobias. *The City Assembled: The Elements of Urban Form
Through History.* Boston, Bulfinch Press, USA

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electronic format or in course readers. Please, note that the copyright for this syllabus is retained both by the instructor and IES
Barcelona.

Lynch, Kevin (1991). *City Sense and City Design*. Writings and projects. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Mumford, Eric. (2000). *The CIAM discourse on urbanism 1928-1960*. Cambridge MIT Press. USA

Reps, John W. (1965). *The making of Urban America*. History of city planning in the United States. Princeton University Press, US

Vazquez Montaban, Manuel (1992) *Barcelonas*, Published by Verso, London, England.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Crowhurst Lennard. Suzane H. *The wisdom of cities*. Architecture, Place, Community, Neighborhood, Identity, Planning and Values. Lennard&Crowhurst Editors, Carmel, USA

Jacobs, Jane (1993). *Downtown is for People*. Berkeley, University of California Press, USA

Krier, Leon (1978). *Rational - Architecture / Rationnelle*. Archives d'Architecture Moderne. Brussels, 1978. (Bilingual French/English text). Belgium

Lynch, Kevin (1960). *The Image of the City*. MIT Press, Cambridge, A Theory of good city form. The MIT Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts-London.

Sherwood, Roger (1979). *Modern Housing Prototypes*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London. England.