
CT101 CATALAN LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS
IES Barcelona Syllabus – Last updated: April 30th, 2008

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for students who wish to reach a basic level in Catalan. By carrying out specific tasks they will be introduced to the present, past and future tenses. The structure of the course focuses particularly on strategies and structures necessary for communicating daily situations. The course also pays attention to cultural aspects which define Catalan society through reading and field studies. (4 credits)

EQUIVALENCES: B1 (Consortori per la normalització Lingüística); A1 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

PREREQUISITES: Minimum SP202 language level.

INSTRUCTOR: Pep Inglés

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Active class discussion, lectures, collaborative tasks, student presentations, field studies, oral presentations.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: Catalan with emergency use of English or Spanish for disambiguation.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: 3 partial exams: 10% each (30%); oral assessment (10%); written assessment (10%); homework (10%); compositions: 2 per week (10%); oral presentations: 1 final (10%); attendance: daily (10%); field Studies: 1 every two weeks (10%).

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, the students are able to:
The mastering of the main skills and grammatical items that follow:

Main Skills:

1. Production
 - a. Written
 - i. Recognizes a variety of lexical items and understands agreement relationships (gender and number)
 - ii. Forms simple sentences related to self and daily contexts in an effective manner
 - iii. Recognized basic false cognates and is able to provide appropriate lexical items
 - b. Oral
 - i. Utters simple correct sentences related to self and daily contexts
 - ii. Understands the vocalic system of the Spanish language and is able to avoid most interference errors
 - iii. Most consonants are pronounced in a proper fashion
2. Comprehension
 - a. Written
 - i. Able to comprehend short sentences describing persons and things
 - ii. Able to understand basic information, personal and contextual
 - b. Oral
 - i. Understands brief statements related to describing self and others

- ii. Understands statements describing daily contextual information
- 3. Interaction
 - a. Oral
 - i. Transmit personal information
 - ii. Respond to simple and direct questions
 - iii. Able to make self understood in brief utterances
 - b. Chat/Blog
 - i. Transmit personal information
 - ii. Respond to simple and direct questions
 - iii. Able to understand and respond to brief interlocutory exchanges

Grammatical Items:

1. Usage and understanding of agreement
 - a. Within the Noun Phrase
 - b. Across the Verb Phrase
2. Usage and understanding of the Present Indicative
 - a. Regular forms
 - b. Irregular forms
3. Usage and understanding of some verbal periphrasis
4. Usage and understanding of Esser, Estar, Anar, Tenir, Fer, Haver, Voler, etc.
5. Usage and understanding of Reflexive verbs and pronouns
6. Usage and understanding of Direct and Indirect Object pronouns
7. Usage and Understanding of the verb Agradar
8. Introduction lexical items related to the self and daily context.
9. Introduction to the Preterit Tenses

Interpret some aspects of Barcelona's social and cultural dynamics and traditions which should allow them to adapt to their new social and cultural reality. Overhaul their cultural perspectives on Catalonia and Spain, by identifying similarities and differences. Understand and critically analyze basic literary and journalistic texts related to Catalan / Spanish current affairs. Apply oral and written discourse strategies in informal registers to facilitate them communicating in catalan about daily topics: schedules, shopping, hobbies, etc.

CONTENT:

Session 1: Course presentation: Dates, exams, field studies, oral presentations, text books presentation, grading system.

Unitat 1 "Som-hi" (Let's go): The alphabet; The "dígrafs"; Numbers: from 1 to 10; Listening and pronunciation practice.

How to... Say hello and goodbye

Vocabulary & grammar: Parts of the day

Homework: List of catalan words; *Qui ets?* (Who are you?) Page 10 of the Dossier.

Session 2: *Unitat 2 "Com et dius?"* (What's your name?)

How to... Introduce yourself and describe somebody.

Vocabulary & grammar: To be (Ser); To be called (Dir-se); Personal article; Using the apostrophe; Demonstrative article.

Culture: Bon dia: un matí a un poble català. (Good morning: a typical Catalan town in the morning).

Homework: Page 11: 1, 2; Page 12: 3; Page 13: 4

Session 3: How to... Talk about yourself (name, age, nationality, profession, hobbies).

Vocabulary & grammar: Present tense; Ser / Estar (to be); Numbers from 10 to 100; Parts of the day / Months / Seasons; Meals.

Homework: Page 22: 10, 11 ; Page 24: 13, 14 ; Page 28: 7 ; Pages 29 & 30: 9, 10.

Composition: *Qui sóc?* (Who am I?)

Session 4: Unitat 3 "Coses de família" (Family matters)

How to... Talk about your family.

Vocabulary & grammar: Possessive pronouns; Gender conjugation; Family vocabulary; Numbers from 1 to 100.

Task: *El meu arbre genealògic* (My family tree)

Homework: Page 15: 6; Page 17: 7, 8 ; Page 38: 1; Page 39: 2 ; Page 40: 3, 4; Page 41: 6.

Field study #1: Com són els catalans? (What are Catalans like?)

Session 5: Presentation on Field Study #1 conclusions.

Unitat 4 "On vius?" (Where do you live?)

How to... Ask and give information about your address

Vocabulary & grammar: Numbers from 100 to 1000 (and more); Second conjugation verbs: *Viure* (to live); Article and preposition contractions; Ordinal numbers; Adverbs.

Homework: Page 20: 7, 8; Page 36: 9, 10, 11.

Composition: *Catalans i Estadunidencs*. (Catalans & Americans)

Session 6: How to... Ask and explain what your apartment's like

Vocabulary & grammar: Adverbs; Ser i Estar (to be); *haver-hi* verb (there is / there are); Parts of the house.

Task: *Un plànol acurat* (An accurate draft)

Session 7: Unitat 5 "Què fas?" (What do you do?)

How to... Talk about daily activities; Ask and tell what time it is; Explain what you do for a living.

Vocabulary & grammar: Present tense of regular and irregular verbs (all conjugations); Frequency markers; Present continuous "*Estar + Gerund*" (to be + gerund); Gender conjugation.

Homework: Page 25: 1, 2, 3, 4 ; Page 85 : 1 ; Page 86 : 2, 3 ; Page 87 : 4, 5.

Session 8: Examen 1**Session 9: Unitat 6 "Quin caràcter!" (What a personality!)**

How to... Describe the personality; Express feelings, moods.

Vocabulary & grammar: Adjectives conjugation; Adverbs; Adjectives referring personality.

Homework: Page 102 : 8; Page 53 : 1, 2 ; Page 54 : 3, 4, 5.

Session 10: Unitat 7 La teca és la teca (Food is food)

How to... Prepare a typical Catalan meal; Know if you're eating a balanced diet.

Vocabulary & grammar: Food and recipes; "*Voler*" verb (to want); "*Agradar*" verb (to like); IO pronouns.

Homework: Page 82 : 3, 4, 6, 7

Session 11: How to... Go shopping; Express preferences; Order at a restaurant

Vocabulary & Grammar: "*Haver-hi*" & "*Quedar*" Verbs; "*Gens*" & "*Cap*"; "*En*" pronoun; Imperative tense.

Culture: *La castanyada, una festa tradicional*. (The Castanyada, a traditional fiesta)

Homework: Page 71; Page 72 : 1 ; Page 73 : 2, 3 ; Page 74 : 4 ; Page 75 : 5, 6 ; Page 76 : 7.

Session 12: Field study #2**Session 13: Unitat 8 "No n'hi ha cap" ("There isn't any")**

How to... Ask and tell if there's somebody or something; Ask and tell what's in a place.

Vocabulary & grammar: "*Haver-hi*" verb and "*en*" pronoun; "*Cap, res, ningú, algú, gens*" pronouns;

Clothing and furniture.

Homework: Page 88: 6 ; Page 89: 7 ; Page 90: 8, 9 ; Page 91: 10, 11.

Session 14: *Unitat 9 "Experiències viscudes"* (Personal experiences)

How to... Talk about the past.

Vocabulary & grammar: Past tenses (Periphrastic, Indefinite, Imperfect, Pluperfect); time markers.

Task: Endequina què he fet (Guess what I did)

Homework: Page 58 ; Page 59: 1 ; Page 60: 2, 3 ; Page 61: 4, 5; Page 62: 7 ; Page 63: 8, 9.

Session 15: How to... Tell a story (and write it).

Vocabulary & grammar: Imperfect & Periphrastic contrast; Textual connectors.

Task: *Escrivim un conte llegendari* (Writing a legendary story).

Culture : Traditional Catalan stories.

Homework: Page 92 ; Page 93: 1, 2 ; Page 94: 3, 4 ; Page 95: 5, 6 ; Page 96: 7; Page 97: 8, 9, 10.

Session 16: Exam 2

Session 17: ...

Session 18: Field study #3

Homework: Page 98: 1; Page 99: 2, 3 ; Page 100: 4, 5; Page 101: 6, 7.

Session 19: Field study #3

Session 20: Field study presentation

Session 21: *Unitat 10 "Jugant a endevinaires"* (Playing the fortune-teller)

How to... Talk about the future.

Vocabulary & grammar: Future tense conjugation; Probability markers.

Task: A palmistry session

Homework: Page 105: 2, 3; Page 106: 4; Page 107: 5.

Session 22: How to... Express an opinion; Analyze and propose solutions to problems.

Vocabulary & grammar : Future tense; Structures to express opinion: "*opinar, semblar, creure*";

Conditional tense; Structures to express need: "*haver de + infinitiu*".

Task: *Un debat sobre el futur del món* (A debate about the world's future).

Homework: Page 108 : 7; Page 109 : 8, 9.

Session 23: Oral presentations

Homework: Questions about the course

Session 24: How to... Express wishes

Vocabulary & grammar: "*Que tinguem sort*": Subjunctive present; Wishing session.

Reviewing game: ALL ABOUT THIS COURSE

Final Exam

REQUIRED READING:

Course reader CT101 (2008). Barcelona, IES Barcelona.

Workbook Badia, Dolors (2007) *Llengua Catalana: Nivell Llindar 1*. Gurb de la Plana: Edicions l'Àlber.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Diccionari Català – Anglès / Anglès – Català. Barcelona: Enciclopèdia Catalana.