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**HP/AN345 CATALAN CULTURAL STUDIES**  
**IES Barcelona Syllabus – Last updated: April 24th, 2008**

**DESCRIPTION:** What do you know about Catalonia? Is Catalonia a nation? What makes Catalan people so different? This course will provide you with the basic intercultural skills and necessary knowledge to be able to understand and live in the context of contemporary Catalan culture. We will address the main ideological and political difficulties of defining Catalan culture as separate from other cultures and communities in the Peninsula. Basic cultural items and components of our local culture (ranging from the Barça club and the '92 Olympics to newspaper materials and folk dances and performance) will be introduced to help you investigate this general question. The goal is to respond, through cultural and political investigation, whether Catalonia could be considered a differentiated nation or political community. This cultural and political debate will be presented through a variety of methods and activities designed to enhance cultural awareness and critical thinking. To help students with their research, at the beginning of each class, basic Catalan vocabulary will be introduced in connection to the issues discussed. (3 credits)

**PREREQUISITES:** None. While there is no language or culture prerequisites for this course, knowledge of some Romance language (Catalan, Spanish, French, or Portuguese) may help students in their fieldwork.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Xavi Alcón

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- **LECTURES:** historical Catalan topics to work on signs and vocabulary of Catalan Society.
- **FIELD STUDIES:** visit real life in Catalonia and Barcelona City to complete basic behaviour discussed or analyzed in class. We will visit museums, parts of the city of Barcelona and Catalonia.
- **READER:** general Cultural Studies vocabulary will be introduced through readings as basic tools to evaluate and classify The Catalan Case topics.
- **STUDENTS PRESENTATIONS:** personal research carried out on topics of the students own choice.
- **DEBATES:** cross-cultural debates based on topics from readings and news of Catalan newspapers and real activities of Catalan life while the semester.
- **CLASS DISCUSSIONS:** open and tolerant acceptance of students' opinions and experiences to define and evaluate topics in a progressive learning way.
- **CASE STUDIES:** work on concrete cultural, political or social events to define and analyze the case of Catalonia.

**LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION:** English

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:** Class participation and oral presentation (20%); field study journal (25%); essay (25%); mid-term exam (15%); final exam (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:

- identify the variety of historical influences which have shaped present-day Catalan Culture (Knowledge);

- analyze the socio-cultural and political aspects –traditions, art, architecture, music, laws and habits- of contemporary Catalan society in the context of Spain and Europe (Skills);
- develop cross-cultural awareness and adaptation skills using students own for a new cultural perspective (Values).

**CONTENT:**

Session 1: Introduction to the course: What is a cultural object?

Session 2: Tips on how to study Catalan culture on your own: Starting a field study journal: objects, language, persons, places. The Donkey vs. The Bull.

Session 3: The Main historical events in Catalonia. Part I. Basic historic vocabulary. Concepts and chronology.

*Required readings:*

VVAA. (2000) *Catalonia land of contrasts*. Generalitat de Catalunya

Session 4: Field Trip: Museu d'Història de la Ciutat: The Romans in Catalonia.

Activity: Words, objects, habits of Barcino and Tarraco inhabitants.

Session 5: The Main historical events in Catalonia. Part II. Basic historic vocabulary. Concepts and chronology.

*Required readings:*

VVAA. (2000) *Catalonia land of contrasts*. Generalitat de Catalunya.

Session 6: Finding a vocabulary for cultural research. What is culture?

*Required readings:*

Even Zohar, Itamar, (1998). *Culture Repertoire and the Wealth of Collective Entities*.

<http://www.tau.ac.il/itamarez/papers/rep&wea2.html>

Session 7: Finding a vocabulary for cultural research. What is culture?

*Required readings:*

Williams, Raymond (1977) *Marxism & Literature* (pgs. 10 –20) Oxford

Session 8: The meaning of culture in Spanish literature.

*Required readings:*

Sieburth, Stephanie (1999) *Modern Spanish Culture*, pgs. 11 –20. "What Does it Mean to Study Modern Spanish Culture?" Cambridge Companion.

Session 9: How do cultures emerge, live and survive?. The case of Catalonia.

*Required readings:*

Anderson, Benedict (1991) "Cultural Roots". *Imagined Communities*.

Session 10: The origins of catalan economy through the shipyards of Barcelona. From the Mediterranean sea to the Atlantic.

**Field Trip:** Museu Maritim de Barcelona.

Session 11: **Midterm Exam**

Session 12: The Nation and the politics. The Catalan Case. The Catalan Language.

*Required readings:*

McRoberts Kenneth, (2001) *The Historical Roots of Nationhood*" (Chapter 1). Oxford University Press

Session 13: The Nation and the politics. The Catalan Case. Economic and Political Power.

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*Required readings:*

McRoberts, Kenneth (2001) *The Historical Roots of Nationhood* (Chapter 1). Oxford University Press

Session 14: **Field trip:** from the Medieval Barcelona to the industrial city: visiting the Born. Activity: Words, objects, habits in Catalunya. The end of a Nation. September 11th; 1714.

Session 15: National Identity in Catalonia.

*Required readings:*

Llobera, Josep R.,

"The Role of Commemorations in (Etno)Nation-building. The Case of Catalonia". *Nationalism and The Nation*.

Session 16: A Nation without State. The Politics: Catalan Political Institutions within the Structure of the Spanish state (student presentations and class discussion).

*Required readings:*

Balcells, Albert (1996) "The Development of Catalan Self-Government from 1980 to 1990". *Catalan Nationalism: Past & Present*. New York St. Martin's Press. Submit Guidelines for Final Essay.

Session 17: ...

Session 18: Building Identities. A Nation without State. The Language: Catalan Political Institutions within the Structure of the Spanish state.

*Required readings:*

Woolard, Kathryn A (1985) *Catalonia: The dilemma of Language Rights. Language of Inequality* Mouton Publishers.

Session 19: Building Identities. Urbanism in Barcelona. Nationhood a Capital without State.

Presentation: Barcelona, an event city: From the Universal Exhibition of 1888 to the Olympic Games of 1992.

Session 20: Building Identities. National Reconstruction and Language Planning.

*Required readings:*

DiGiacomo, Susan M. (2001) *Catalan Is Everyone's Thing': Normalizing a Nation*. (Article) Palgrave, New York.

Session 21: Building Identities. National Reconstruction and Language Planning. (Part II)

*Required readings:*

DiGiacomo, Susan M. (2001) *Catalan Is Everyone's Thing': Normalizing a Nation*. (Article) Palgrave, New York.

Session 22: Building Identities. The People: The "typical" Catalan person. Some stereotypes about Catalonia and the Catalans. Study of jokes and sayings by and about Catalan people. (class discussion and sharing of journal writing).

Session 23: Building Identities. Old & New immigration.

*Required readings:*

Candel, Francisco (2000) "Immigration in Catalonia". (Article) **Catalonia**.

Session 24: Papers and Journals presentations.

**Final Exam**

### REQUIRED READING:

- VVAA. (2000) Catalonia land of contrasts. Generalitat de Catalunya Even Zohar, Itamar, 1998. Culture Repertoire and the Wealth of Collective Entities. <http://www.tau.ac.il/itamarez/papers/rep&wea2html>
- Williams, Raymond (1977) *Marxism & Literature* (pgs. 10–20).Oxford.
- Sieburth, Stephanie (1999) *Modern Spanish Culture*, pgs. 11–20."What Does it Mean to Study Modern Spanish Culture?".Cambridge Companion
- Anderson, Benedict (1991) "Cultural Roots". *Imagined Communities*.
- McRoberts Kenneth (2001) "The Historical Roots of Nationhood" (Chapter 1). Oxford University Press
- Llobera, Josep R., "The Role of Commemorations in (Etno)Nation-building. The Case of Catalonia", *Nationalism and the Nation*.
- Balcells, Albert (1996) "The Development of Catalan Self-Government from 1980 to 1990".Catalan Nationalism: Past & Present.New York St. Martin's Press.
- Woolard, Kathryn A (1985) *Catalonia: The dilemma of Language Rights. Language of Inequality*. Mouton Publishers
- DiGiacomo, Susan M. (2001) "Catalan Is Everyone's Thing': Normalizing a Nation. (Article). Palgrave, New York.
- Candel, " Francisco (2000) "Immigration in Catalonia." (article). Catalonia

### RECOMMENDED READING:

- Cent Anys de Catalanisme. 1993; Barcelona: Generalitat de Catalunya.
- Candel, Francesc. 1986. *Los otros catalanes*. Barcelona Plaza y Janés,.
- Capmany, Maria Aurelia. 1990 *¿Qué diablos es Catalunya?* Ediciones Temas de Hoy. Madrid
- Diez Medrano, Juan. 1995 *Divided Nations: Class Politics and Nationalism in the Basque Country and Catalonia*. Ithaca: Cornell UP.
- Gies, David T. 1999. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Giner, Salvador. 1980 *The Social Structure of Catalonia*. Sheffield: Anglo-Catalan Society.
- Grahan, Helen and Labanyi, Jo (eds.) 1995 *Spanish Cultural Studies. An Introduction: The Struggle for Modernity*. New York: OUP.
- George, David and John London (eds.). 1996 *Contemporary Catalan Theatre: An Introduction*. Sheffield: Anglo-Catalan Society.
- Guibernau, M. Montserrat. 1999 *Nations without States: Political Communities in a Global Age*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Hansen, Edward C. 1977 *Rural Catalonia under the Franco Regime*. Cambridge, NY: CUP.
- Hughes, Robert. 1992 *Barcelona*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf,.
- Johnston, Hank. 1991. *Tales of Nationalism: Catalonia 1939-1979*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers U.
- Jordan, Barry and Morgan, Rikki (eds.) 2000 *Contemporary Spanish Cultural Studies*. London, New York: Arnold and OUP,.
- Keating, Michael. 1996 *Nations against the State: the New Politics of Nationalism in Quebec, Catalonia, and Scotland*. New York: St. Martin's Press,.
- Langdon-Davies, John. 1929 *Dancing Catalans*. London: Jonathan Cape.
- Marí Mayans, Isidor. 1993 *Conocer la lengua y la cultura catalanas*. Palma de Mallorca: Generalitat de Catalunya, Generalitat Valenciana, Govern Balear.
- Maxwell, Richard. 1995 *The Spectacle of Democracy: Spanish Television, Nationalism, and Political Transition*. Minneapolis, MN: U of Minnesota P,.
- Mercadé, Francesc.Cataluña: 1982 *Intelectuales políticos y cuestión nacional: análisis sociológico de las ideologías políticas en la Cataluña democrática*. Barcelona: Península,.
- Molas, Joaquim. 1990 *Paisatges de Catalunya/Landscapes of Catalonia*. Barcelona: Generalitat de Catalunya,.
- Orwell, George. 1980 *Homage to Catalonia*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace.
- Sobrer, Josep Miquel (ed.). 1992 *Catalonia: A Self Portrait*. Indiana UP.
- Subirana, Jaume. 2001 *Tota la veritat sobre els catalans*. Barcelona: La Magrana,.

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Marzal, Antonio. "Catalonia as a civil society," *Catalonia Culture*, 8 (1988), pp. 48. "Immigration in Catalonia," *Catalonia Culture*, 41 (1996), pp. 5-7 Masllorens, Alex.