Barcelona: the History, Art, and Culture of a Mediterranean City
Queens College Study Abroad

Barcelona is the stunning, cosmopolitan heart and capital of the region of Cataluña in the northeast corner of Spain. The origins of this Mediterranean city go back more than 2,500 years – it has been ruled by Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Moors, and Franks until it finally became part of the Spanish empire in the 17th century. Traces of this diverse history with contrasting cultures can be found all over Barcelona.

Spain’s second largest city, Barcelona is, for all intents and purposes bilingual, as inhabitants of the region speak both Castilian Spanish and Catalán, the official language of Cataluña. It offers students eccentric creativity, cultural diversity, and endless amounts of energy. The architecture in Barcelona is stunning and unique, ranging from medieval gothic castles to the mosaic buildings of Antonio Gaudí. It has world-class museums, beaches, restaurants, and cafes.

Also known for the cubist and surreal artists Picasso and Dalí, Barcelona will satisfy art and history students of all types! BORDERED by wooded hills and beaches, its surrounding area also offers an escape from bustling city life. A few hours away are the Pyrenees Mountains as well as the vineyards and orchards of the Cataluña region.

In this course, you will study the history, art, and culture of this beautiful city and visit its monuments and museums. For one month, immerse yourself in its important past and its vibrant present. Field trips will include the Old City Gothic Quarter, the Boquería Market of La Rambla, Antoni Gaudi’s La Sagrada Familia, Montjuïc, the Museu Picasso, and the Parc Guell and many other important historical and cultural sites. Excursions further afield will include the Costa Brava’s Greek and Roman ruins as well as its beautiful beaches, the medieval city of Girona, the Dalí Museum in Figueres, and the sacred shrine ofMontserrat.

Course Requirements: Students will explore Barcelona, learn about its history, religion, art, and culture and develop the ability to combine classroom and experiential learning.
Participation: (15%) Participation in class discussions of the assigned readings is at the heart and soul of this course so it is a crucial component of your grade. Attendance in class and on field trips, therefore, is mandatory.

Required Readings: Students will purchase a reading packet containing articles and excerpts from most of the works in the below bibliography.

Journal/Notebook/Scrapbook: (30%) The journal will consist of hand-written notes, thoughts, comments, postcards, museum receipts, etc. Think of it as a written and visual record of all that you do, see, and learn about Barcelona. The journal will also include writing assignments given during various field trips throughout the city and beyond. *Choose your notebook carefully! Get one that is a comfortable size for you, one you will not mind taking with you everywhere, one that makes you feel like writing! It should have at least 100 pages (you may find yourself writing more than you had ever imagined you would).

Oral Presentation on Field Trip Assignments: (10%) TBA

Research Project: (30%) This 8-page typed research project about the history, art, and culture of Barcelona and Cataluña (with a component to be researched on site) will be due a few weeks after we get back home from Spain.

Final Exam: (15%)

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**English-Language Bibliography on Catalonia and Barcelona**


Bisson, Thomas N. ed., *Fiscal Accounts of Catalonia under the Early Count-Kings*. 


Hargreaves, John. *Freedom for Catalonia? Catalan Nationalism, Spanish Identity, and...*


