

THE IMAGE OF BARCELONA IN LITERATURE

Total length of the module: 45 hours

Number of sessions: 30

Length of each session 1,5 hours

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE:

After the Olympic Games of 1992, Barcelona became known to the world and an international tourist destination; but a short touristic visit cannot account for the cultural complexities of the Catalan capital. In order to know any city, to “dwell” in it, we need to become familiar with its oral history, paintings, architecture, sculpture, and literary texts. More specifically, the more we learn about the literature of Barcelona, the more we shall know about its culture past and present. For this reason this course will explore the city through the eyes of its writers. We shall start in the nineteenth century with the rise of the modern metropolis that we know today and finish with the post-Olympic urban reality of the twenty-first century. Students will encounter a wide variety of materials- poetry, novel, theater and essay- and will be expected to study them with a critical eye, applying additional historical, cultural and theoretical readings. Our goal will be to arrive at a greater knowledge of the city and its context, as well as the literature surrounding it.

REQUIREMENTS

- Fluency in English
- Interest in literature

CONTENTS

- The literary image: Imagology
- The city in literature
- “Renaixença” and the rise of Modern Barcelona
- “Modernisme”: Efforts to become Europe
- “Noucentisme” and Political Catalanism
- The Vangards
- The Civil War
- The Postwar period: The fallen city
- The transition to democracy
- The Postmodern dissolution of the urban center

- Old and New Immigrations
- The foreign gaze

READINGS

Belbel, Sergi. *Strangers in Barcelona plays*. New York: Martin E. Segal Theater Center Publications, 2008. (Trad. Sharon Feldman)

Benet i Jornet, Josep Maria. *Salamandra in Barcelona plays*. New York: Martin E. Segal Theater Center Publications, 2008. (Trad. Marion Peter Holt)

Laforet, Carmen. *Nada*. New York: The Modern Library, 2008. (Trad. Edith Grossman)

Monzó, Quim. *O'Clock, Olivetti, Moulinex, Chaffoteauxet Maury*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986. (Trad by Mary Ann Newman)

Salvat-Papasseit, Joan. *Selected poems. Joan Salvat Papasseit*. Oxford: The Anglo-Catalan Society, 1982. (Trad. D. Keown i T. Owen)

Rodoreda, Merce. *The time of the doves*. New York: Taplinger: 1981. (Trad. David H. Rosenthal)

Vázquez-Montalbán, Manuel. *Barcelonas (Barcelonas 1987)*. Verso Editions, 1992. (Trad. Andrew Robinson).

Verdaguer, Jacint. *To Barcelona in Selected Poems of Jacint Verdaguer: A bilingual Edition*. University of Chicago University Press, 2007, p 174-187. (Trad. Ronaldo Puppo).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beller, Mamfred. *Perception, image, imagology in Imagology*. Amsterdam-New York: Rodopi, 2007.

Bou, Enric. *Exile in the city: Merce Rodoreda's "La plaça del diamant"*, in *The garden Across the Border: Merce Rodoreda's Fiction*, Edited by Kathleen McNerney and Nancy Vosburg. Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University press, 1994, p. 31-41.

Cervera, Joseph Philip. *Modernismo: The Catalan Renaissance of the Arts*. New York: Garland, 1976.

Colm , Tóibín. *Homage to Barcelona*. New York: Penguin Books, 1992.

Feldman, Sharon G. *In the eye of the storm: Contemporary theater in Barcelona*. Lewisburg. Bucknell University Press, 2009.

Graham, Helen and Jo Labanyi, eds. *Spanish Cultural Studies: An Introduction: The struggle for Modernity*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995.

Lehan, Richard. *The city in Literature: An intellectual and cultural history*. Berkele: University of California Press, 1998.

Leersen, Joep. *Imagology: History and method in Imagology*. Amsterdam-New York: Rodopi, 2007, p. 17-31.

Pike, Burton. *The image of the city in modern literature*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1981.

Resina, Jan Ramon. *Barcelona's vocation of modernity: Rise and decline of an urban image*. Standford, Calif.: Standford University Press, 2008.

Terry, Arthur. *A Companion to Catalan Literature*. London: Thamesis Books, 2010.

Pope, Randolph. *Merce Rodoreda's subtle greatness in Women's writings of contemporary Spain: Exiles in the homeland* edited by Joan L. Brown. Newark: University of Delaware Press: 1991, p 116-135.

GRADING

Midterm Exam (25%): This exam will consist of a series of questions that ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material covered in class.

Research Paper (30%): Students will write a term paper of approximately 5 pages in length. At least 5 scholarly sources must be used. Topics will be discusses individually with the professor.

Final Exam (30%): This exam will consist of a series of questions that ask students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material covered in class in addition to their capacity for in-depth textual analysis.

Class Participation (15%)