

4,5,6

SEP - 2 2009

**Request for Curriculum Council Action**

9/02/09

Urban Photography in Barcelona  
Art 245

The students in this course will live in the gothic barrio of Barcelona, the capital of the Spanish province of Catalunya. As they get to know their neighborhood, they will be keeping a journal and recording their observations with a digital camera. Visits to

assignments will help the students become familiar with the other, very diverse barrios that make up this fascinating city. Learning the extensive public transit system will be

4. Please list any prerequisites: none

5. When will this course first be offered? May Term 2010

6. Please indicate how often course is offered. Check only the single item that best describes this course. Because these are the only intervals used in the University Catalog, please do not edit or alter the list to fit a particular course. For example, if your course is offered every third year—an interval that does not appear in the Catalog—you might choose "Offered as needed" or "Offered occasionally" instead.

- Offered each semester
- Offered each Fall Term
- Offered each spring
- Offered each May Term
- Offered each semester and May Term
- Offered occasionally

- Offered in alternate years, Spring
- Offered in alternate years, May Term
- Offered annually
- Offered every third semester
- Offered as needed
- Offered on request

Offered in alternate years, Fall Term

7. Is/are any other department(s) affected in any way by this request (e.g., course is cross-listed, team-taught, etc.)?

No.  Yes. In what way?

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Rationale for Gen Ed credit for Art 245  
Urban Documentary Photography in Barcelona

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On the day following the death of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Catalan once more became the national language of the city of Barcelona and the province of Catalunya. The yellow and red striated Catalan flag was raised and the population was able to openly sing the Catalan national anthem and dance the national dance-- the Sardana. The Catalan culture was strong enough to withstand decades of violent oppression. It is this culture that the students of this travel course will be experiencing, examining, and documenting. To assist me on this course I have Mercè Dorca, who was a student at

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the University of Barcelona, both before and after the death of Franco. Sonia Marin, the lecturer for our five guided tours, is a native Catalana whose father was a political dissident imprisoned by Franco in the notorious Castell de Montjuic. For two weeks we will be experiencing daily life in a neighborhood, El Born, in the old city. During our stay

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this journal will describe interactions and observations where no photographic recording was possible. A written cultural comparison is also part of the final project. The nature of the photographs will vary per student, just as they do during a regular photography course. Some of the compositions will be purely visual, while others will refer to some sort of extended narrative that would be a part of their journal and eventually part of the final written cultural comparison.

There are a series of assignments that will, first of all, help the participants to become familiar with their neighborhood and the transit system. More importantly, the completion of these assignments will take them to locales within the city that are rich in visual texture. For example, one assignment is to find the only tiny plaza that still visually bears the scars of the Spanish Civil War—Placa San Felip Neri. In order to find this plaza, they will have to wend their way through a veritable rabbit warren of narrow streets. Even with a map and a guidebook, they will still have to ask someone for directions.

These assignments will force the photographers to record close up details as well as wide vistas. They will force the students to examine the visual structures around them as well as how people interact with these visual structures.

#### Encountering Global Diversity flag.

The travel component of this course is a true immersion into daily life in Barcelona. In lieu of staying in a tourist hotel, the students will be staying in an apartment building in one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city. These modern, furnished apartments are also equipped with a kitchen. In two weeks time the students will become very familiar

with their barrio and eventually they will be able to find their way around the rest of the city. Although there are a few scheduled formal group meals, and there will be informal

will have a two-week transit pass and will carry copy of either, "Time Out Barcelona" or  
"Smart Max Barcelona" in addition to a "Smart Max Barcelona". In order to complete

kind and helpful.

The nexus of the neighborhood of the Boqueria market is a small coffee and breakfast bar called Pinotxo (Pinocchio) Bar. At least once during our time in Barcelona, each student has to sit at this counter at the entrance of the market and enjoy a beverage while watching all of Barcelona stop by for a quick café con leche and an animated verbal exchange with the owner, Juanito. He is a friend to everyone and his gregariousness takes the awkwardness out of any conversation-- even when you can't speak Catalan or Spanish very well. It is the perfect spot to watch the workday begin in the heart of the old city. Bar Pinotxo is where we will "wake up" on the day of our cooking class.

Assessment

I have re-taken this travel course twice since it was first offered in