Paris, Rome, and Barcelona: Past and Present of Three Great European Cities (historical emphasis)

Course Description

Barcelona, Paris, and Rome are three iconic European cities that have been at the center of innovation, revolution, and evolution throughout the history of their respective nations. Barcelona as the coastal Spanish hub has maintained its individuality as the capital of the Catalonia region. Paris, one of the largest cities in Europe, the birthplace of Gothic architecture, and the center of the Enlightenment, is now a cosmopolitan art and culture capital. And Rome, the Eternal City, preserves ancient ruins and religious monuments while evolving to meet today’s world. Each city serves as home to world-renowned art and architecture, business, financial, and economic institutions, and significant social and political movements. Paris, Rome, and Barcelona provide examples of urban environments in which the ancient meets the modern and history is celebrated while new innovations continue to move the regions forward. This course explores the events that have shaped each of these cities from a historical perspective.

This Supervised Independent Study (SIS) course will guide students through the discovery of Paris, Rome, and Barcelona, while providing the opportunity for an independent exploration of the subject.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the history of Barcelona and demonstrate knowledge of its significance for Catalonia, for Spain, and for the whole Mediterranean region
2. Explain the history of Paris and demonstrate knowledge of its significance for France, for Europe, and for the whole evolution of western civilization
3. Explain the history of Rome and demonstrate knowledge of its significance as the capital of ancient Rome, as the capital of modern Italy, and as host city of the Vatican
4. Identify key historical events that have shaped each city
5. Compare and contrast the past and present of each city
6. Identify the perspectives of other nations on each city
7. Speculate about the future state of each city and how they are likely to evolve
8. Develop your own perspectives and impressions of each city in its current state and how the past is reflected in your experience
Course Requirements

This course requires independent research, organization, and academic discipline. Students are expected to complete the required and additional readings in pace with their assignments and the course outline. Students will meet with their SIS Coordinator regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a midterm exam, a final exam, and four essay assignments.

Essay #1 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- What were the major historical transformations in the nineteenth century that impacted the philosophy of urban planning in Europe and the development of cities such as Barcelona, Paris, and Rome?

Essay #2 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Summarize the history of Barcelona
- What were 3 key historical events that shaped Barcelona as the city it is today? Why?
- Reflect on your perspective and impression of Barcelona. How were you able to connect what you learned with what you experienced?

Essay #3 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Summarize the history of Paris
- What were 3 key historical events that shaped Paris as the city it is today? Why?
- Reflect on your perspective and impression of Paris. How were you able to connect what you learned with what you experienced?

Essay #4 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Summarize the history of Rome
- What were 3 key historical events that shaped Rome as the city it is today? Why?
- Reflect on your perspective and impression of Rome. How were you able to connect what you learned with what you experienced?

Presentation

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study. Required components include:

- Summary of your goals and objectives
- Overview of the historical evolution of Barcelona, reflection on your experience, and predictions for the future
- Overview of the historical evolution of Paris, reflection on your experience, and predictions for the future
- Overview of the historical evolution of Rome, reflection on your experience, and predictions for the future
- Conclusions

Required Readings

Barcelona (Cities in World History)
by Gary McDonogh and Sergi Martinez-Rigol
Polity Press, 1st Edition, 2018
(Paperback or Kindle edition recommended)
Paris: The Biography of a City
by Colin Jones
(Paperback or Kindle edition recommended)

Rome (Cities in World History)
by Andrew Leach
(Paperback or Kindle edition recommended)

Recommended Readings

Planning Europe’s Capital Cities: Aspects of Nineteenth-Century Urban Development
by Thomas Hall
(Paperback or Kindle edition recommended)

Components of Final Grade

Midterm exam 15%
Final exam 15%
Essay #1 10%
Essay #2 15%
Essay #3 15%
Essay #4 15%
Presentation 15%

Grading Scale

93-100 % A
90-92.9 % A-
87-89.9 % B+
83-86.9 % B
80-82.9 % B-
77-79.9 % C+
73-76.9 % C
70-72.9% C-
67-69.9 % D+
63-66.9 % D
60-62.9 % D-
Below 60 % F

Course Outline

Module 1: Barcelona, Part 1
• The Evolution of a Mediterranean City
• Barcelona the Capital
• Decline and Renewal

Module 2: Barcelona, Part 2
• The Industrial City
• The Exploding Metropolis
Module 3: Barcelona, Part 3
- Barcelona under Franco
- Barcelona Today and Tomorrow

Module 4: Paris, Part 1
- Paris-Lutetia
- ‘Queen of Cities’
- The City Adrift

Module 5: Paris, Part 2
- Paris Reborn, Paris Reformed
- Great Eclipse
- The Kingless Capital of Enlightenment

Module 6: Paris, Part 3
- Revolution and Empire
- Between Napoleons
- Haussmannism and the City of Modernity
- The Anxious Spectacle

Module 7: Paris, Part 4
- Faded Dreams, Lost Illusions
- The Remaking of Paris
- Conclusions: Big Projects in a Bigger City (Paris in the Twenty-first Century)

Module 8: Rome, Part 1
- Introduction: Thinking about Seeing
- A Matter of Foundations

Module 9: Rome, Part 2
- Roma Caput Mundi
- A Middle Age

Module 10: Rome, Part 3
- Return to Rome
- The Capital of Italy
- Rome in the 21st century

Schedule of Classes and Visits
The detailed schedule of classes, professional visits, and suggested cultural visits for each session is available online at www.forum-nexus.com/schedules.

Academic Integrity
Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.
## Course Outline

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Modules</th>
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<td>5/31 – 7/3</td>
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<td><strong>Pre-Program Preparation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Become familiar with the syllabus, identify additional readings, begin readings and research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/4</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td><strong>Essay #1 Due</strong></td>
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<td>7/4 – 7/8</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td><strong>Complete Readings and Research</strong></td>
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<td>7/8</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td><strong>Meeting with SIS Coordinator</strong></td>
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<td>Paris</td>
<td><strong>Complete Readings and Research</strong></td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
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<td>7/10</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td><strong>Essay #2 Due</strong></td>
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<td>7/13 – 7/18</td>
<td>Chamonix</td>
<td><strong>Complete Readings and Research</strong></td>
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<td>7/16</td>
<td>Chamonix</td>
<td><strong>Essay #3 Due</strong></td>
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<td>7/17</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<td>7/18 – 7/22</td>
<td>Milan</td>
<td><strong>Complete Readings and Research</strong></td>
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<td>7/23</td>
<td>Rome</td>
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<td>7/23 – 7/27</td>
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<td><strong>Complete Readings and Research</strong></td>
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<td>7/28 – 7/30</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
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<td>Rhodes</td>
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<td>7/31</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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<td>8/1</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
<td><strong>Final Project Presentation</strong></td>
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