

## THE GREAT ART COLLECTIONS IN SPAIN

*Total length of the module: 45 hours*

*Number of sessions: 30*

*Length of each session: 1,5 h*

### INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

This programme has been designed to teach students about the great art collections preserved in the most important Spanish museums. We study the origin and formation of these collections as well as the way they are in display today. Along the course, the student will be also able to recognize the most important masterpieces of the Spanish art, know the reasons that account for their unanimous positive appraisal, and analyze their artistic characteristics and their social and historical implications. The methods of instruction will include lectures, oral presentations by the students and at least one field visit with the professor. Other field trips will be proposed to be done by the students individually.

### REQUIREMENTS

- Fluent in English
- Interest in the Humanities, and more particularly in art and history

### CONTENTS

1. What is a museum?
  - a. Legislation
  - b. History of Spanish museums since 19th century to the present day
2. The Spanish State museums:
  - a. Museo Nacional y centro de investigación de Altamira
  - b. Museo Arqueológico Nacional
  - c. Museo Nacional del Prado
  - d. Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (MNCARS)
  - e. Other National Museum
3. The museums in Catalonia
  - a. State Museums
    1. Museu Arqueològic de Catalunya (MAC)
    2. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC)
    3. Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA)
  - b. Municipal Museums of Barcelona
    1. Museu Picasso
    2. Disseny Hub Barcelona

3. Museu Frederic Marès
4. Other
- c. Other Catalan Museum

4. Private Collections:
  - a. Fundación Thyssen-Bornemisza
  - b. Museu Dalí
  - c. Fundació Miró

## GRADING

**Papers (20%):** Students will write a term paper. Papers are to be approximately 10 pages in length, excluding illustrations and bibliography. At least 6 scholar sources must be used. Topics will be individually discussed with the professor.

**Presentation in class (20%):** each student will give an oral presentation about his/her term paper.

**Midterm Exam (15%):** This exam will consist in writing two short essays.

**Final Exam (35%):** This exam will consist in writing two short essays.

**Class participation and other homework (10%).**

- Attendance and participation are not compulsory; however they are going to be positively valued for students that show a full commitment with the course.
- The evaluation is going to take into account the continuous work of the student. During the course small exercises will be proposed to the students.

High grades will be awarded for work that demonstrates:

- A good knowledge of course material, including readings and notes from class and site visits
- The ability to articulate clearly on the style and subject matter of the museums, artists and works of art covered through the use of appropriate terminology and methods.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

AA.VV, *Gestió del patrimoni històric*, Barcelona, 2001.

GONZÁLEZ-VARAS, I., *Conservación de Bienes Culturales. Teoría, historia, principios y normas*, Madrid, 1999.

INIESTA I GONZÁLEZ, M., *Els gabinets del món. Antropología, museus i museologia*, Lleida, 1994.

MARIN-MEDINA, J., *Grandes coleccionistas, siglos XIX y XX*, Edarcon, Madrid, 1988.

TAYLOR, F. H., *Artistas, príncipes y mercaderes. Historia del coleccionismo desde Ramsés a Napoleón*, Luis de Caralt, Barcelona, 1960, (1948).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Relevant study tours are arranged. The assistance to these field visits is compulsory. If there is an entrance fee will be charged to each student.

### Ground rules:

- Students should come to class fully prepared to participate and to cooperate with the professor in order to create a seminar style ambient in class.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in class (only water bottles)
- There will be a 10 minutes break
- Students will not leave the classroom during the session.
- If a student needs to leave the class early, tell the professor before the class starts
- Students are not allowed to use any type of MP3, iPod or similar in class.
- If a student is using his/her personal laptop to write notes about the class cannot check the e-mail, facebook, twitter, google or similar, at anytime during the class.
- Professor cannot allow the presence of a student in class that is not dressed properly for an academic context, or that shows an inadequate attitude.