

SUMMER COURSES IN CATALAN

ART HISTORY LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE



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INSTITUT DE CULTURA CATALANA
DE SITGES

CATALAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Catalan is a Romance language spoken by a population numbering seven to eight million people, not only in Catalonia, but also in Valencia, the Balearic Islands, the Roussillon (in France) and the small area of Alguer — Alghero — in Sardinia. Catalan culture has indisputable value and is particularly notable for its achievements during the Middle Ages and in the last two centuries. The study of Catalan language, both for Hispanic and Romance specialists and for linguists in general offers a singularly interesting area of investigation. The literature of the Medieval period has an importance comparable to that of Castilian literature in the same period: Ramon Llull remains the most universal figure in the entire peninsula during the Medieval period; Ausias March has been considered the best European poet in the first half of the XVth century and *Tirant lo Blanc* is, according to the judgment of many critics, the first modern European novel in time. Moreover, modern Catalan literature has recovered the splendour of the early period with such figures as Verdaguer, Maragall, Oller, Guimerà, Riba, Foix, Espriu and many others. Concerning the cultural manifestations independent of the language, like architecture, painting, sculpture or, to some extent, music, they are known, frequently, without reference to Catalan culture. However, it must be said that Catalan architects like Gaudí or Sert, painters like Miró or Dalí and musicians like Casals, can only be well understood and really appreciated within the framework of the Catalan culture environment.

For many centuries, Catalan has not been an official language and has been forced out of the public life. For this reason, the Catalan language and the Catalan literature are little known. However, in recent years, increasing interest in Catalan language and culture has developed: some important societies of Catalan studies have been created in different countries and, at the same time, the number of Catalan courses in universities and colleges has increased too. Now Catalan is an official language, with Spanish, in Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands and, because of the new political circumstances in Spain, we can foresee a great development of Catalan culture.

Seus beneycs sanro e sanres amen.
Perco condemp re que rascindia

A program of exceptional interest for foreign students who wish to have a basic knowledge of Catalan culture. The program will include also study tours to important historic and artistic places, like Barcelona (old and modern), Tarragona, the monasteries of Poblet and Montserrat and an optional visit to the Costa Brava.

There will be five courses altogether. Three of these, on art (including music), history and literature, will be given in English or in some other language known by all participants, if Catalan cannot be used. The remaining two courses will be in language: one, for beginners, in which the use of Catalan will be gradual, and the other, for more advanced students, in which some knowledge of Catalan will be required. Students naturally only have to enrol for one of the last two courses. There will be also seminars on some specific cultural areas.

The program will be held in Sitges, a charming town on the Mediterranean coast some forty kilometers (25 miles) south of Barcelona. Classes will be held in the morning and the afternoon will be free, except for some lecture or concert.



June 20 – July 7, 1983

The tuition fees will be 3.000 pesetas; the study tours, 3.000 pesetas. Students may lodge in some of the hotels of the town – a list of the recommended hotels with the corresponding prices will be sent on request – and the Secretary of the Courses will make the booking. The approximate price for a double occupancy room and all meals is 3.500 pesetas per day.

For further information and enrolment please write to the Director of the Courses, Professor J. Roca-Pons, Arxiu Històric Municipal, Plaça de l'Ajuntament 18, Sitges (Catalonia, Spain) before May 31st (phone number 3-894.11.49).

Ajuntament de Sitges
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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