

Course Descriptions & Bios, Barcelona 2025

Danielle King

Santa Rosa Junior College

Hello future study abroad students! My name is Danielle King, and I've been a biology instructor at Santa Rosa JC since 2003. I completed my bachelor's degree in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution at UC San Diego and earned a master's in Wildlife Biology from Humboldt State University. My graduate research focused on roosting ecology of bats in old-growth redwood forests. Bats are the coolest animals on the planet, and I'll find a way to incorporate them into every class I teach. I'll also recommend a weekend trip to Valencia, where bat symbols are found on everything from firetrucks to manhole covers to the Mestalla Stadium (home of Valencia Club de Fútbol).

During my 21 years at SRJC I've taught a variety of biology courses, from Anatomy to Zoology. My favorite teaching assignments have been abroad in Florence, Italy as well as Costa Rica, where I was very fortunate to teach Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation for several summer programs. During the summer of 2007 I met a wonderful host family in Santa Bárbara de Heredia. We've kept in touch for 17 years now, and I return every few summers to visit and travel with them. Now you have the incredible opportunity to live with a host family of your own, building connections that can last a lifetime.

In addition to teaching abroad, I have traveled to Australia, Fiji, France, Spain, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Panama, and Ireland. I am eagerly preparing for a new adventure with all of you: bringing my family along to live, learn, and explore in Barcelona!

BIO 12: Basic Concepts of Ecology

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

The study of ecology and conservation is timely, as the many threats to Earth's ecosystems have tremendous implications both locally and globally. This course will show how basic ecological principles are applicable all over the world, while comparing specific environmental issues and promising potential solutions in Spain and the U.S.

Our topics will include structure and function of ecosystems, human population growth, and biodiversity. We'll explore the ecology of the Mediterranean climate and see representative plants from around the world at the Barcelona Botanical Garden. As we study extinction events throughout history, you'll have an opportunity to visit Júlia, the life-sized mammoth statue in Ciutadella Park.

Barcelona prides itself on its sustainability initiatives, so we'll discuss what they're doing and compare efforts by the U.S. and Europe to address climate change. You'll observe fossils as well as modern species at Barcelona's Museum of Natural Sciences, and we'll tour the fantastic displays on the evolution of large mammals at CosmoCaixa Science Museum.

BIO 13: Human Biology

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

The father of modern neuroscience, Santiago Ramón y Cajal, was the first Spaniard to win a Nobel prize in science. Did you know that his work on neuron structure and his artistic ability changed our understanding of how humans learn? You will, after taking Human Biology in Barcelona!

This class explores all aspects of human biology including cellular biology, genetics, anatomy and physiology, reproduction, evolution, and human impacts on the environment. We'll discuss the Mediterranean diet and compare food-related practices in Spain and the U.S. to inform our discussion of atherosclerosis and diabetes. We'll visit CosmoCaixa Science Museum to see the human evolution exhibit, and we'll tour the beautiful Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau hospital museum when we study infectious disease. To cap off our study of structure and function, we'll observe organs in 3D at the Human Bodies Exhibition.

BIO 14: Current Issues in Biology

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

Confused by seemingly endless and contradictory posts about nutrition research? Wondering whether gene editing is good or bad? Interested in learning more about reproductive health, the rise of antibiotic resistance, or the biodiversity crisis? Join me for Bio 14 in Barcelona!

This course will introduce basic principles of biology through current issues, as they apply to both Spain and the U.S. We'll study topics from the fields of ecology, evolution, anatomy, physiology, genetics, molecular and cell biology. I hope you'll discover a love for biology along the way.

Instead of a textbook, we'll use current media and the outstanding resources surrounding us in Barcelona. We'll sample Catalan cuisine as we study the structure and function of the digestive system, along with cultural perspectives around nutrition. During our unit on pandemics, vaccination, and the immune system we'll learn how both the Black Death (bubonic plague) and COVID-19 had devastating impacts on Barcelona, highlighted by a tour of the Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau hospital museum. And you won't want to miss the fascinating exhibit on climate change at the Museum of Natural Sciences!

Other topics include the science behind and potential impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), past and current loss of habitat and species, as well as contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Field trips may also include visits to CosmoCaixa Science Museum and Fab Lab Barcelona.

Philip Angove

Los Rios Community College District

Hello, I am Philip Angove and I am extraordinarily excited to be participating in the Study Abroad program in Barcelona during the Fall 2025 semester. The opportunity to share my love of Barcelona with students is thrilling, and I hope you join us as we explore the culture of this truly World-class city! With architecture and visual arts known throughout the world thanks to Gaudí, Picasso and other famous Barcelonans, the music scene and nightlife are equally impressive and ready for you to explore. All of the music classes will afford opportunities to attend live performances at local concert halls, music venues, chapels, and clubs. Even the streets of Barcelona are overflowing with great music, as the city hires municipal musicians to perform throughout the city!

In addition to the music itself, we will have the opportunity to explore the cultural and social conditions that interfaced with the artists and helped influence their creations. Particularly in Catalonia, the deep sense of culture and identity informed the music, art, and literature, and we will learn about these reciprocal influences. After 25 years of teaching music, and over 35 as a musician, I am bursting with anticipation to share this unique semester with you!

MUFHL 308: Introduction to Music: Rock & Roll

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

This course is a study of popular music traditions including Rock, Pop, R&B and Hip-Hop. We study the music and the societal events that impacted its creation. In Barcelona, we will have the opportunity to study these traditions in Europe, Spain and Catalonia as well as the traditions in the U.S. Who was the previously unknown gospel singer and guitarist who (for all practical purposes) invented Rock & Roll and why did she go unrecognized for so long? Why did the Beatles break-up? Who was the greatest Motown artist of all time? How did Tupac appear at Coachella decades after he "died"? How did themes of Spanish music make it into music by The Doors, Jimi Hendrix, Carlos Santana and others? These are all questions we can explore, debate and collectively answer in this course!

MUFHL 311: Survey of Music History and Literature (1750 to the present)

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

This course is a study of classical and other art music from the mid-18th century through modern day composers. It has the added advantage of fulfilling both credits for GE transfer as well as lower-division requirements for music majors at most CSU, UC and private 4-year universities. Beginning with Mozart and Beethoven and continuing through compositions from the past decade, this course challenges students to increasingly see the evolution of music through many movements and counter-movements, which in the largest sense align with major periods of art and music history. Along the way, we'll explore ideas ranging from Romantic-era notions of the artist as tormented, suffering genius to concepts in contemporary music of art being a reflection of the artists' identity. We'll also see how the emergence of nations, political movements, World Wars and social movements all impacted music along the way.

MUFHL 330: World Music

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

This course is a musical journey around the globe as we explore musical traditions from lots of continents, countries and cultures. What is West-African "High-Life? How did the "Habanera" lead to the Tango? What do a meditation tool of Zen Monks and a disguised weapon of Samurai have in common in the musical sense? How did a choir from South Africa help end apartheid? In our journey to 6 continents and innumerable island cultures, we will see the very important and unique role that Spain played in the evolution of World Music traditions. Barcelona, Catalonia and Spain are in fact the perfect setting in which to study the content of this course, and we will learn how!

Judith Hunt

San Mateo County Community College District

My love of travel began at a young age, traveling with my parents and sibling exploring various parts of the world. These experiences collectively impressed on me the wonders of other cultures and the unique learning that came with living somewhere different. As I got older, my love of travel and exploring continued. In high school I studied in Spain, continued to travel, went to graduate school in Canada, continuously grabbing opportunities to study and research abroad all the way through my Ph.D. program. One of my early teaching assignments was at Versailles, where I lived in Paris, and developed my appreciation and understanding of the intersection of European and US history.

For the last six years I have spent summers in Barcelona with my own family, using it as a perfect launch pad to travel through Europe. These earlier experiences living and learning abroad continue to inform my everyday life.

HIST 100: History of Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East through early Modern era

3 units, CSU/UC transferable

HIST 106: World History II: From 1500 to present

3 units, CSU/UC transferable

HIST 201: United States History I: Indigenous pre-Columbian origins through 1877

3 units, CSU/UC transferable

During our semester abroad, we will visit historical sites, museums and local cultural hot spots as we discover the richness of Spanish culture and history. We will see first-hand how 2,000 years of influence by the Moors, Romans, French and Portuguese shaped the country and its role in the larger Atlantic World.

In Barcelona, we have the unique opportunity to live and learn in one of the most dynamic and interesting cities in the Mediterranean. Situated at a crossroad of cultural diversity, Barcelona is a perfect place to study history. I will offer courses that compliment this diversity including HIST 106: Modern World History Since 1500 AD and HIST 100: Western Civilizations, a course that covers European history through the early modern era. These courses will not only offer you a deeper appreciation for the history and culture of your host city, but also inspire you to explore broader connections between Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. And, for students who have not yet taken their U.S. history GE course, I will offer HIST 201: U.S. History to 1877 AD. This is an incredibly unique opportunity to study U.S. history from a European perspective. These courses all lend themselves to exploratory learning, allowing us to move beyond the confines of classroom and into the fascinating city streets of sunny Barcelona.

Ruth Miller

Contra Costa Community College District

Ruth Miller began teaching full-time with Diablo Valley College's Humanities department in 2002, after having taught as an adjunct at DVC and throughout the Bay Area since 1997. She has studied at Western Kentucky University, Studio Arts Center International (Florence, Italy), the San Francisco Art Institute, and completed graduate work in the Humanities at San Francisco State University and in the History of Art and Architecture at UC Santa Barbara. Miller has taught the full range of Humanities offerings at DVC, and she is an advocate for the kind of interdisciplinary and integrative approach to the arts that the Humanities provide. She is a study abroad enthusiast who first caught the bug accompanying her high school art class on a journey through Europe. As a DVC faculty member, she has participated in the NCSAC's Florence 2011 program and its London 2016 program, and she could not be more excited about her next adventure with Barcelona 2025. Outside of her study abroad teaching, Miller has traveled extensively throughout Europe, West and South Africa, the Pacific Basin and parts of South and Central America.

HUMAN 105: Introduction to Humanities: Arts and Ideas

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

This is a non-chronological course that introduces students to the integration of creative arts and the world of ideas. Students will learn to analyze, interpret and relate masterworks selected from literature, music, painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, and film, to philosophical, religious, political and scientific thought. The class will examine arts and ideas from a variety of cultures drawn from various historical periods, but special attention will be given to the arts and culture of Spain. At the same time, students will be encouraged to relate Spanish arts and ideas to works and movements from other cultures. Class themes include art as expression of tradition and continuity, art as an agent of social change and resistance, censorship and the arts, the role of portraiture, and the relationship between war and the arts.

HUMAN 112: The Modern World

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

This is an introductory course that integrates the visual arts, music, literature, drama, architecture, philosophy, and history of the Modern world and with an emphasis on Spanish works. Though we will follow a chronological order from the Baroque to the present, we will bring certain recurring themes and questions to bear on our subjects such as: the changing style or “look” of visual arts, the role of the artist, the function of art, attitudes toward tradition and innovation, perceptions of technology and nature, civilization versus the “primitive,” tradition versus avant-gardism, and the relation between art and society.

HUMAN 118: Film, Fiction, and Criticism

3 units, CSU/UC transferable.

This class will examine literary works, films that have been made from those works, and the branch of philosophy called aesthetic criticism. More specifically, the class will focus on Spanish films and fiction (or works created by Spanish authors / filmmakers) drawn from a range of genres. The interdisciplinary and critical analysis of film and fiction will enhance our understanding of these forms, which are often considered in isolation. Students will gain an understanding of Spanish film history, will learn how to analyze both the form and content of literary and cinematic works, and will consider ways in which both express aspects of Spanish culture and both regional and national identity. All works of literature and film will be read in English translation or have English subtitles.