

SPANISH CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE

Mediterranean Studies

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US

OBJECTIVES

As a way of providing students a starting perspective and a general framework, this course opens with an extensive and chronological view of Spanish history and its cultural/artistic evolution from prehistory to the present. The course continues with an in-depth examination of the current Spanish sociological and political situation, pointing out specific case studies depending on their relevance. By using concepts from these various disciplines, students will learn about how Spain changed from a polarized country in constant distress to become a fully modern, westernized country.

Although offering a basic introduction to the different aspects of modern day Spanish society, this class is not exclusively History, Sociology, Anthropology or Politics, but about the comprehension of the various links and multiple implications of these subjects within themselves with the final goal of characterizing the major changes in Spanish society in the last 50 years.

REQUIREMENTS

Fluent in English

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify the main periods of Spanish history.
2. Describe the decisions/events that changed the course of history.
3. Understand the way of living and the collective mentality for each period.
4. Identify the basic characteristics of artistic and cultural production for each period.
5. Recognize the names and artworks of the most important Spanish artists.
6. Characterize the basic functioning of the Spanish political structure today.
7. Outline the basic functioning of the Spanish economy today.
8. Understand Spanish society from the global demographic data to the daily life of a family.
9. Analyze Spanish national diversity from a critical perspective.
10. Be able to discuss about the main political/economic/social issues in Spain today.

CONTENTS

Introduction and Syllabus.
Basic knowledge about Spain.

Ancient Hist. & Cult.
Insiders and Outsiders.

Medieval History & Culture.
Religious coexistence.

Early Modern History & Culture.
Empire and faith.

Contemporary History & Culture
Failed states; war and growth.

Contemporary History & Culture (II)
The Democratic period.

Current issues in Spain.

Spanish Sociology.
The case of Immigration.
Spanish politics.
Nationalisms in Spain.
Corruption in society and Politics

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

During the chronological review of the history and culture of Spain, classes will be conducted in lecture format and will be complemented with visual material and short in-class activities with primary sources like historical documents. The following sessions will be more proactive, lectures will be fewer in number and lighter in contents and students will be encouraged to participate as much as possible and discuss the treated topics. Also, at least two class activities (whole session length) will take place during this period so that students can enhance their knowledge on more specific topics. These activities will be diverse (debates, individual or group work), but will always imply the reading of relevant academic articles.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Mid-term exam: 25%
2 Class Activities: 25%
Final Exam: 30%
Participation: 20%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended reading:

BARTON, Simon, A History of Spain, Palgrave MacMillan, 2009.
CARR, Raymond, Spain. A History, Oxford University Press, 2001.
CHAPMAN, Charles, A History of Spain: Founded on the Historia de España y de la Civilización Española of Rafael Altamira, Forgotten Books, 2012.
CHISLETT, William, Spain. What Everyone needs to know, Oxford University Press, 2013.
GUNTHER, Richard, The Politics of Spain, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
HILL, Fred James, Spain: An Illustrated History, New York: Hippocrene Books, 2001.
HOOPER, John, The new Spaniards, Penguin, 2006.
JORDAN, Barry, Spanish Culture and Society, Hodder Education, 2002.
LABANYI, Jo, Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spain, Oxford UP, 2002.
MOFFIT, John F., The Arts in Spain, New York: Thames & Hudson, 1999.
McKENDRICK, Melveena, Spain: a History, New York City, 2016.
ORTI, Pilar, The A to Z of Spanish Culture, lulu.com, 2012.
PAYNE, Stanley G., Spain, A Unique History, University of Wisconsin, 2011.
PHILIPS, William D. & PHILIPS, Carla Rahn, A Concise History of Spain, Cambridge, 2010.
PLATT PARMELE, Mary, A Short History of Spain, Enhanced Media Publishing, 2016.
PIERSON, Peter, The History of Spain, Greenwood Publishing, 1999.
REQUEJO, Ferran, Multinational Federalism and value pluralism: The Spanish Case, Routledge, 2005.
RODGERS, Eamonn, Encyclopedia of Contemporary Spanish Culture, Routledge, 2001.
SMITH, Paul Julian, Contemporary Spanish Culture, Polity Press, 2002.
TATLOCK, R.R., Spanish Art, Read Books, 2011.
TREGLOWN, Jeremy, Franco's Crypt: Spanish Culture and Memory since 1936, Farrar Straus Giroux, 2013.
TREMLET, GILES, Ghosts of Spain, Faber & Faber, 2007.
WILLIAMS, Mark, The Story of Spain, Santana Books, 2000.