

## SPANISH CULTURE

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**Fall term 2009**  
**Wednesdays-Fridays: 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm**

### Introduction to the Course.

This course offers a survey of Spanish Culture and Civilization. It is based on key topics that built contemporary Spanish society, those that will provide students with fundamental concepts and ideas to understand the historical, sociological and anthropological development of all layers of Spanish population. Each class will emphasize a specific topic that contributed to build Spanish culture. Starting with those that place Spain in today's world, it gradually increases complexity through the analysis of those civilizations that crossed the Iberian Peninsula, focusing on the idea of multiple, cross path and diversity of Spanish identity.

#### I. GOALS

This course aims to offer a general view of the Spanish culture and civilization through readings, lectures and cultural activities. By "civilization" we understand cultural aspects, political issues and traditions that build the history and society of today's Spain. Therefore, **a consistent and coherent historical knowledge is required to reach this goal.**

We will **combine classes with lectures**. Ideas, behaviours and traditions will be analysed in order to understand historical/cultural patterns, specific or not to the Iberian Peninsula. Sessions will be conducted in English. The instructor will gradually introduce vocabulary and expressions in Spanish. Being in Spain gives the student a great opportunity to widen his/her approach culture through language and thus, this class will use specific terms in Spanish.

Sessions will be based on commented readings, power-point presentations, films, sound documents and, of course, group discussions. All students are expected to come to all sessions prepared for them: all indicated assignments are to be done before hand. **A class of four hours/week demands a minimum of six hours of personal work, per week as well.**

#### II. SELECTED READINGS

At the beginning of the semester, a selection of texts will be given in advanced so the student will be prepared to discuss them in class(history, civilisation & society), along with a bibliography and a selected filmography in case they want to research on an specific topic. Students will have to read the indicated ones (see below) **before** each class.

We highly recommend students to do a complementary bibliography research at the library as well as at the internet. It is very important to verify the sources as NOT ALL of them are a 100% reliable. You are expected to confront at least three sources on the same matter to draw out your own objective conclusions.

### **III. REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES**

#### **EXAMS AND PAPERS**

There will be an exam EVERY 4 WEEKS

Exams 3: 45%

Oral Presentation 1: 20%

Research Paper: 20%

Participation and attendance: 15%

**No papers or requirements will be accepted after due dates.**

No exceptions. No make ups.

### **IV. CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is mandatory. Nevertheless you are allowed to one **UN**justified absence. From that one on, **each absence will decrease 5 points your final grade i.e.: from 92 (A-) to 87 (B+).**

Instructor may refuse one student to attend class if he/she is late -more than 10 minutes- after the class is started. If the student is late more than once, instructors will count half an absence at the second time late.

### **V. ACADEMIC BEHAVIOUR**

The Centro Complutense para la Enseñanza del Español only accepts an honest behaviour. You are not allowed to copy at your exams or papers. All citations (books, internet, others) **MUST BE QUOTED**, otherwise it will be considered as plagiarism. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are considered as automatic failure.

No cellular phones may be connected during classes or any other Program Activities nor are you allowed to eat or drink, use music or any other kind of electronic devices. You will be asked to leave the class if this happens. You are requested to ask for permission to your instructor if you wish to record his/her classes.

### **VI. PARTICIPATION GRADES**

All classes, including activities, lectures... require from your participation. Criteria is as follows:

- HIGH participation: The **student is prepared in advanced** to each one of the classes/visits/lectures, makes meaningful observations, comments or questions that show out his/her comprehension and interest on the subject.
- LOW participation: opposite as above, the student never participates or talks in class disrupting the instructor or his/her colleagues.

## VII. SESSIONS AND CONTENTS FALL 2009

TOPICS	READINGS	CONTENTS (topics for class presentations)	ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM	INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES
INTRODUCTION <b>OCT. 14</b>		What does civilization and culture mean? Geographical Diversity		
CONTEMPORARY SPAN <b>OCT 16</b>		<b>New waves: TV and Radio</b>	Visit to TELEMADRID TELEVISION	
CONTEMPORARY SPAIN <b>OCT 21</b>		<b>Politics: 1978 Constitution Spanish Political parties today</b>		
IBERIAN CIVILIZATIONS <b>OCT 23</b>		Pre-romans, romans, visigoths and muslims		Visit to the Archeological Museum
SPANISH GASTRONOMY <b>OCT 28</b>		<b>"Gastronomy culture" and the "Hunger years" Protected Designation of Origin (PDO): wine, olive oil, cheese, etc....</b>		
<b>EXAM 1 OCT 30</b>				
THE RECONQUEST AND THE "THREE CULTURES" <b>NOV 4</b>		Christian kingdoms, The three cultures and the Catholic kings		
LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT TODAY <b>NOV 6</b>		<b>Folklore, traditions and sports. Spanish regional identities</b>		
"OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY" <b>NOV 11</b>			See the film: Juana la Loca	
SOCIETY AND RELIGION <b>NOV 13</b>		<b>Belief and the Church. Spain's muslims today...in the shadow of Bin-Laden?</b>		Visit to the M-30 Mosque
THE HABSBURGS <b>NOV 18</b>		Carlos I and the American Discovery		
<b>EXAM 2 NOV 20</b>				
THE HABSBURGS <b>NOV 25</b>		Phillip II-III and IV and Los Validos		Visit to the Museo de América
THE HABSBURGS <b>NOV 27</b>		Decline of the Spanish Empire	See the film: El Capitán Alatriste	
CONTEMPORARY SPAIN: SOCIETY <b>DEC 2</b>		<b>Society today: Immigration, women, youth and elder</b>		
BOURBONS IN SPAIN <b>DEC 4</b>		The Enlightenment. The reform period. How did Madrid become a capital city?	Madrid city walk: Sol, Cibeles, P <sup>2</sup> del Prado, Atocha	

THE END OF THE MONARCHY <b>DEC 9</b>		The II Republic, the Spanish Civil War and Franquismo		
FRANQUISMO PERIOD <b>DEC 11</b>			See the film: "13 rosas"	
ART & CULTURE: MODERNITY AND TRADITION <b>DEC 16</b>		Film, Visual Arts & Music during "La Movida"		
<b>EXAMEN 3</b> <b>DEC 18</b>				

### Bibliography Suggested Readings

- ALLISON, M., "The construction of youth in Spain in the 1980s and 1990s", in JORDAN, B. & MORGAN-TAMOSUNAS, R. (eds.) (2000), pp. 265 – 273.
- ALTED, A., "The Republican and Nationalist Wartime Cultural Apparatus" "Education and Political Control", in: GRAHAM & LABANYI (eds.) (1995), pp. 152 – 160, 196 -200.
- CARR, R. (2001), "Liberalism and Reaction 1833-1931", in: *Spain a History*, Oxford University Press, pp. 205 – 242.
- CORKILL, D. "Race, Immigration and multiculturalism in Spain" in: JORDAN, B. & MORGAN-TAMOSUNAS, R. (eds.) (2000), pp. 48 – 57
- DÍAZ. E., "The Left and the Legacy of Francoism: Political Culture in Opposition", in: GRAHAM & LABANYI (eds.) (1995): pp. 283 – 290.
- ELORZA, A., "Some perspectives on the Nation – State and the Autonomies in Spain", in: GRAHAM & LABANYI (eds.) (1995), pp. 332 -335.
- GRAHAM, H. "Women and Social Change", in: GRAHAM & LABANYI (eds.) (1995), pp. 99 – 115.
- GRAHAM & LABANYI (eds.) (1995), *Spanish Cultural Studies. An Introduction*, New York, Oxford University Press.
- **HOOPER, John (2006) *The New Spaniards*, London: Penguin Books.**
- JORDAN, B. & MORGAN-TAMOSUNAS, R. (eds.) (2000), *Contemporary Spanish Cultural Studies*, London, Arnold
- MONTERO, E. "Reform Idealized: The Intellectual and Ideological Origins of the Second Republic", "The Silent Revolution: The Social and Cultural Advances of Women in Democratic Spain" in: GRAHAM & LABANYI (eds.) (1995), 124 – 132, 381 – 385.
- PAYNE, Stanley (1973) *A history of Spain and Portugal*, University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 178 – 187. and 415-488
- TRIANA, N., "A punk called Pedro: la movida in the films of Pedro Almodovar", in JORDAN, B. & MORGAN-TAMOSUNAS, R. (eds.) (2000), pp. 274 – 282.
- VV.AA., "General Impressions ", in: THOMAS, H. (ed.) (2005), pp.47 – 62.
- **WILLIAMS, Mark (2000) *The Story of Spain*, Fuengirola: Santana Books**
- **BERDISCHEVSKY, Norman (2004) *Spanish vignettes*, Málaga: Santana Books,**

### Online Reference & Research Tools

- Wikipedia has a quite thorough history of Madrid and Spain
- [www.sispain.org/english/history](http://www.sispain.org/english/history) History of Spain
- [www.library.yale.edu/rsc/history/spanhist](http://www.library.yale.edu/rsc/history/spanhist) Comprehensive list of scholarly resources on Spanish History
- [www.spain.info](http://www.spain.info)
- [www.munimadrid.es](http://www.munimadrid.es)