



**UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID**  
**Universidades Norteamericanas Reunidas**  
**(Brief Course Description)**

**Spring Semester**

(Course titles in alphabetical order in Spanish)

***Arte español del siglo XX***

**Spanish Art in the 20th Century** (Spring semester)

Historical overview of art and related areas including relevant aspects of architecture, sculpture, and painting from the 19th and 20th centuries. Moreover, Spanish and European artistic movements will be reviewed including modernism, cubism, surrealism and abstractionism and late 20th century trends in Spain. The course studies particularly works from the following artists: Sorolla, Gaudí, A, Palacios, Picasso, Miró, Dalí, Gutiérrez, Solana, Benlliure, Chillida, Grupo El Paso o Tàpies. Works will be contextualized in national and international contexts.

***Cine español***

**Spanish Cinema** (Spring semester)

An overview of the Spanish cinema from the 1950's to the present. The Spanish cinema is understood as a cultural expression of a specific social and historical context. This course provides a theoretical framework to facilitate a deep understanding of the cultural and artistic film discourse in Spanish society. Films provide an opportunity to reflect on diverse and relevant Spanish social themes, including social classes during the Franco era, autonomous regions and groups in Spain, migration and multiculturalism in present Spain, poverty marginalization of youth, women's role and place in the Spanish society, unemployment and society, youth perspective and initiation, among other themes. Advanced Spanish level is required as films do not have English subtitles. Well-developed oral and listening skills are necessary to do well in this class.

***Composición española avanzada***

**Advanced Spanish Composition** (Spring semester)

This course covers Spanish Grammar appropriate for advanced level or higher. Students will learn noun and verbal phrases, particularly advanced composition and will study the following elements: Orthography, verb conjugations in all tenses, personal pronouns, simple and complex sentence structures. There will be many oral exercises, dialogues, and guided conversation about different real life situations. Placement exam is required on the first day of class.

## ***Culturas de España***

### **Cultures of Spain** (Spring semester)

The study of diverse cultures in contemporary Spain from a sociological, anthropological, literary and historical-political perspective. The course aims to offer key knowledge that will allow the student to understand contemporary Spanish identity. A synchronic vision will be developed, based on the 20th century and present post-modernity. Historical background will be provided when necessary. The course is complemented with cultural offerings in Madrid, Spain's capital. The course will develop the student's critical capacity by discussing in-depth topics and themes of Spanish cultural tradition. No prior knowledge of Spanish culture is necessary. A minimum of intermediate-high level of Spanish is required.

## ***Dialectología: el español en el mundo***

### **Dialectology: Spanish in the World** (Spring semester)

The study of languages and dialects; formation of languages and dialects in Spain; stages in the development of Spanish; dialects of Andalusia, Extremadura, Murcia, and the Canary Islands; Spanish in Latin America (regions, phonetics, morphology, lexicology, etc.); Spanish in the United States; and Sephardic Spanish.

## ***El islam en España: perspectiva histórica y cultural***

### **Islam in Spain: A Cultural and Historical Perspective** (Spring semester)

A brief introduction to the Islamic presence in the Iberian Peninsula. Introduction to the History of Islam, sources, obligations, beliefs and institutions. History of Al-Andalus: main historical and cultural events, literature, arts, philosophical thought, scientific progress, contributions to Europe, toponymy and Arabism. Recent immigrations to contemporary Spain. Social integration challenges and the future of the Muslim community in Spain.

## ***España en el mundo global***

### **Spain in the Global World** (Spring semester)

Multidisciplinary approach that places Spain in a complex and multilayered process related to globalization. Topics describing current context include: Globalization of the World Economy, crisis of statehood and nation, borderless politics, Spain's place within the European Union, new international world order and American hegemony, return to geopolitics, exploring new democratic pathways and cosmopolitanism, identity crisis, uncertainties, fragmentation and new social challenges.

## ***Español de los negocios***

### **Business Spanish** (Spring semester)

The purpose of this course is to provide students of Spanish a range of advanced language structures, technical vocabulary and specialized terminology which the student may apply in the field of business. Specific objectives are to improve reading and listening skills as well as to enable active expression of ideas, both orally and in writing, in a professional business environment.

## ***Filosofía en la literatura***

### **Philosophy in Literature** (Spring semester)

This course explores the relationship between philosophy and literature. It will study the origin of literature, its early manifestations, and both early and contemporary reflections on nature and the function of literary creation. Students will develop critical analytical skills informed by a philosophical perspective, and will become able to develop a philosophical thesis through literary genres. Special attention will be paid to Spanish contemporary literature and culture.

***Filosofía: Debates éticos en la España contemporánea***

**Ethical Debates in Contemporary Spain** (Spring semester)

Within a general reflection on ethics as a philosophical discipline, and morality as a historical concept that retains resonance today, this course will study classical authors such as Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche and Habermas. By analyzing current challenges facing humankind, special attention will be paid to ethical debates within contemporary Spanish society.

***Fonética española***

**Spanish Phonetics** (Spring semester)

An introduction to Spanish Phonetics and Phonology. A systematic study of the articulation and production of sounds used in Spanish and International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcriptions. Identification and pronunciation of applied phonemes in students' oral communication.

***Gramática española avanzada***

**Advanced Spanish Grammar** (Fall and spring semesters)

This course covers Spanish Grammar appropriate for advanced level or higher. Students will learn noun and verbal phrases, particularly advanced composition and will study the following elements: Orthography, verb conjugations in all tenses, personal pronouns, simple and complex sentence structures. There will be many oral exercises, dialogues, and guided conversation about different real life situations. Placement exam is required on the first day of class.

***Historia contemporánea de España: 1808 al presente***

**Contemporary History of Spain: 1808 to Present** (Spring semester)

Contemporary history of Spain from the Enlightenment to the present. Chronological high points include: French invasion, Fernando VII and Isabel II, Carlist Wars, liberal revolution, First Republic, Restoration of Bourbon monarchy, Alfonso XII, loss of last overseas territories of Colonial Empire (1898), monarchy of Alfonso XIII, Second Republic, Civil War and Franco's dictatorship, monarchy of Juan Carlos I, transition to democracy, and Spain under current administration.

***Historia de Hispanoamérica: del siglo XIX al presente***

**Spanish-American History: 19th Century to Present** (Spring semester)

An overview of Latin American history from its independence to present. The course studies independence movement, nation building and ideology, administrative models, economic dependency, society and social classes, role of Catholic Church, military institutions and relevant political organizations. Social change, immigration, and economic challenges are discussed. Latin America in current global context will be examined. Specific historical cases are studied to illustrate important moments of Latin American history.

### ***La mujer en la literatura española***

#### **Women in Spanish Literature** (Spring semester)

A study of different images of women in Hispanic literature from the Middle Ages to the present, with an emphasis on 20th century literature. Texts by both men and women will include: the *Celestina*, and works by Luis Vives, Fray Luis de León, Miguel de Cervantes, Leandro Fernández de Moratín, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, Rosalía de Castro, Concepción Arenal, Carmen de Burgos, María de Maeztu, Carmen Martín Gaité, Ana María Matute, Carmen Riera, Esther Tusquets, Lourdes Ortiz, Paloma Pedrero, among other authors. These texts will be studied from a sociological perspective and different feminist approaches will be discussed.

### ***Literatura española contemporánea***

#### **Contemporary Spanish Literature** (Spring semester):

An overview of Spanish poetry, fiction, and plays of the 20th century. Historic perspective on the most important literary movements of the century. The time periods include: the early 20th century, the period 1920-1936, the post-war period, 1950-1979, and 1980 to the present day. Authors such as Valle-Inclán, Baroja, Unamuno, Machado, Jiménez, the Generación of 27 authors, García Lorca, Mihura, Rosales, Blas de Otero, González, Gil de Biedma, and others will be studied.

### ***Literatura hispanoamericana: del siglo XIX-XXI***

#### **Spanish-American Literature: 19th- to 21st centuries** (Spring semester)

Survey of Latin American literature from the 19th century through the present, with special attention paid to the search for an authentically American expression and literary experimentation through aesthetics.

### ***Los sistemas políticos europeos: el modelo español***

#### **European Political Systems: The Spanish Model** (Spring semester)

A historical and comparative study of the most representative political and administrative models of Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course is divided into two parts: A specific analysis of the political systems in Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the government of the European Union, and Spain as a unique political model that since 1931 has experienced the existence or coexistence of three different political systems: The Republic, dictatorship, and constitutional monarchy. Comparative analysis of political models between Europe and the United States of America.

### ***Obras maestras del Museo del Prado: Representaciones del poder***

#### **Prado Museum Masterpieces: Representations of Power** (Spring semester)

This class introduces the masterpieces found in the Prado museum dating between the 12th and the 19th centuries, with special attention paid to the interaction between art and power. Students will develop their critical capacities as well as the ability to judge the aesthetic merits of the works studied as they explore the evolution and characteristics of the masterpieces corresponding to different historical periods, contextualizing them in terms of cultural and

aesthetic movements. The class will also examine the origin and management of the museum, and the curation of its collection and temporary exhibits.

***Sintaxis comparada inglés-español: construcciones verbales***

**English-Spanish Comparative Syntax: Verbal Constructions** (Spring semester)

This course covers diverse aspects of Spanish syntax difficult for native English speakers. The main topics are: Morphological verb differences between Spanish and English; verbal periphrases with corresponding equivalents in English; English nominalization in relation to Spanish verb usage, prenominal verbs, passive voice, word order in Spanish and English; syntax and semantics of motion: mode and direction; useful structures and expressions and false cognates. This course requires an advanced level of language preparation.

***Teatro español del Siglo de Oro***

**Spanish Golden Age Theater** (Spring semester)

A survey of the Golden Age of theater, 16th and 17th centuries, in its social, historical and literary context as well as social entertainment. Works by Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, Moreto, and Calderón will be studied.