

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH MASTERPIECES IN THE ARTS

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Description

The course will study a brief history of Spanish art through some of its masterpieces studied in chronological order taking into account, historical, social, iconographic and artistic issues. The course will include the discussion of written sources and comparisons with other artworks from the same time or context.

Learning outcomes

On successfully completing this subject, students will be able to:

- Describe the evolution of Spanish art.
- Identify part of the artistic masterpieces created in Spain.
- Apply the correct terminology concerning the study of Spanish art.
- Know some of the primary and secondary sources relevant for the study of the Arts in Spain.
- Establish the relationships between a work of art and its historical, social and cultural context.
- Understand the historical importance of Spanish works of art and make a personal reflection about the meaning and use of an artwork .

Topics included in the Syllabus

1. Introduction. The first works of art in the Iberian Peninsula. Altamira.
2. La dama de Elche.
3. The city of Tarraco and Roman art in Hispania.
4. The treasury of Guarrazar. Visigothic art in Spain.
5. The mosque of Córdoba and the origins of Islamic art in Spain.
6. The Beatus of king Ferdinand I and queen Sancha.
7. The cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.
8. The cathedral of Zaragoza, between mudéjar and gothic.
9. La Alhambra.
10. The main altarpiece of the Charterhouse of Miraflores (Burgos).
11. The façade of Salamanca University.
12. The royal monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial
13. El Greco. The burial of the lord of Orgaz.
14. Juan de Mesa. Jesús del Gran Poder.
15. Velázquez. Las Meninas.
16. Seville. The Hospital of Charity.
17. Luisa Roldán, Saint Michael.
18. The Royal Palace of Madrid.
19. The Royal Gardens of Aranjuez.

20. Goya. The Black Paintings.
21. Francisco Pradilla. The Surrender of Grenade.
22. Joaquín Sorolla. A walk by the Seashore.
23. Antoni Gaudí. La Sagrada Familia
24. Picasso. Guernica
25. Ouka Lele. The Kiss.
26. Eduardo Chillida. Comb of the Wind.
27. Agustín Ibarrola. Forest of Oma.
28. Bilbao. The Guggenheim Museum.

Teaching practices

The classes will develop as lectures given by the professor, although the active participation of the students is expected. The professor will recommend readings and film viewings related to the topics included in the syllabus. If possible, there will be several visits to museums and cultural institutions in Madrid and its vicinity.

Form of assessment

Students will be graded according to these activities and percentages:

Final written exam= 60%

Practical exercises (presentations)= 30%

Active participation during in-site classes= 10%

The exam will consist on the comment of four images related to the topics discussed during the classes and the students presentations. The comment should include the context in which the work was made as well as an analysis (not a mere description) of the work itself, its main characteristics and its importance as an artwork.

The students will have to make an oral presentation, either individually or in a group of (maximum) three people, about a topic of Spanish Art in which they are interested or a work of art that the group has seen in a visit to a cultural institution. Either the topic or the artwork selected has to be approved by the teacher. The length of the presentation shouldn't be more than 20 minutes.

Before their presentation the group should provide the rest of the students and the teacher with an outline of it as well as the bibliography used to prepare it. All the students in the same group will have the same mark.

Attendance to the classes is mandatory, students are expected to be in class and on time every day. That implies active participation is something more than coming regularly to class, a good examples of active participation could be providing the rest of the class with some useful ideas related to the topic that is being treated, reading in advance some of the proposed bibliography or participate in a debate with a personal point of view that shows some previous thinking about the topic.

Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

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General works

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El Greco

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Velázquez

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Contemporary Spain

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Sorolla

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