POL 372E Contemporary Spanish Politics

**Professor:** Pablo del Rio Loira

**Office:** CUI

**Email:** delrioloira@essb.eur.nl

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 12:00 – 13:00

**Course information:**

**Spring 2020**

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

**10:30-12:00**

Course Description

This class will introduce students to the important historical, political, social, and economic aspects of contemporary Spanish politics. Firstly, it will examine the legacy of the Franco regime and the transition to democracy after 1975. Secondly, it will focus on the new political, social and economic institutions of the democratic regime. Lastly, Spanish foreign policy in an era of globalization will be assessed.

Course Goals and Methodology

The aim of this course is to introduce the students to the main debates surrounding the Spanish political system. During the 26 sessions of the course, different aspects of Spanish politics will be tackled.

Firstly, the course will question the historical roots of the current political system in Spain. Features like the Second Republic, the Civil War, Francoism and the Transition to democracy will be analyzed in order to stress their relevance on current Spanish contemporary politics.

The second part of the course will deal with the different actors that structure Spanish politics. The role and structure of core institutions, political parties, social movements, lobbies, bureaucracy, mass media and political elites will be assessed.

Thirdly, the course will focus on the dynamics structuring the political system. Those dynamics include the processes of decentralization, Europeanization, internationalization. The rise of the Spanish welfare state, the state and nation building process, the new developments affecting the political culture or the effects of the electoral system will be tackled.

Each session will be based on a fundamental question (e.g. Is Spain evolving towards federalism?). The professor will provide quantitative and qualitative data about that issue, and an open discussion will conclude each session. Different educational methods and techniques will be applied: debates, presentations, readings, videos and an oratory contest will help students to get the basic knowledge about the Spanish political system.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the recent developments in Spanish politics.
2. Debate about the current state of Spanish politics.
3. Make the distinction between the different concepts of political science (state, nation, power, clientelism, patronage, institutions, social movements, pressure groups…).

**Required Texts**


**Course Requirements and Grading**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class assignments and essays about movies: 15%
- Participation: 15%
- Midterm exam: 25%
- Debate contest: 20%
- Final exam: 25%
In-class discussions will be encouraged at all sessions. Class participation will therefore be graded according to the students' previous work and reflections about the provided material. Active participation means not only attendance (being there ≠ participation) but discussion with relevant basis (text-based and not just random personal experience and background), asking and answering questions in class, engaging in class discussions and conversations with class mates, questioning information presented and discussed. Students are also expected to actively participate in in-class exercises and to do some homework. Participation points will be assigned based on the following criteria:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Frequency of participation in class</th>
<th>Exemplary (9-10)</th>
<th>Proficient (8-9)</th>
<th>Developing (7-8)</th>
<th>Unacceptable (0-7)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student initiates contributions more than once in each class.</td>
<td>Student initiates contribution once in each class.</td>
<td>Student initiates contribution at least in half of the classes.</td>
<td>Student does not initiate contribution &amp; needs instructor to solicit input</td>
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<td>Comments always insightful &amp; constructive; uses appropriate terminology. Comments balanced between general impressions, opinions &amp; specific, thoughtful criticisms or contributions.</td>
<td>Comments mostly insightful &amp; constructive; mostly uses appropriate terminology. Occasionally comments are too general or not relevant to the discussion.</td>
<td>Comments are sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight. Student does not use appropriate terminology; comments not always relevant to the discussion.</td>
<td>Comments are uninformative, lacking in appropriate terminology. Heavy reliance on opinion &amp; personal taste, e.g., “I love it”, “I hate it”, “It’s bad” etc.</td>
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<td>Listening Skills</td>
<td>Student listens attentively when others present ideas, materials, as indicated by comments that reflect &amp; build on others’ remarks. Occasionally needs encouragement or reminder from T.A of focus of comment.</td>
<td>Student is mostly attentive when others present ideas, materials, as indicated by comments that reflect &amp; build on others’ remarks. Occasionally needs reminder of focus of class. Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.</td>
<td>Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.</td>
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General Course Policies

Leaving the classroom: Leaving the classroom on repeated occasions is disturbing to both your professor and your classmates and may adversely affect your participation grade. Please make use of the 10 minute breaks in between classes to fill up your water bottle, use the restroom, etc.

Punctuality and tardiness: Arriving late to class is disruptive to both the professor and your classmates. Please be punctual as your professor may count your late arrival as half of an absence or simply close the door, not let any late students in and consider it as one full absence.

Communicating with instructor: Please allow at least 48 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails. The weekend is not included in this timeframe. If you have an urgent request or question for your professor, be sure to send it during the week.

Attendance and Absentee Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all classes. As we understand that you might fall ill or be unable to come to class (e.g. due to a religious holiday, a flight delay, a family wedding/reunion, a graduation, a job interview, etc.) at some point during the semester, you are allowed up to 4 absences. You will be responsible for the material covered and any work missed. You will not need to justify your absences (up to 4) in any way unless you miss an exam, a presentation, a quiz, etc. In this case, you must present a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated) to be able to reschedule the exam, etc. It will still count as an absence but you will be allowed to retake the exam, etc. We don't encourage you to use all 4 days unless you really need them as your participation grade may suffer if you are not in class. If used unwisely and you get sick late in the semester, the following penalties will apply:

- On your 5th absence, 1 point will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 6th absence, 3 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 7th absence, 5 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

For classes that meet once a week, each absence counts as two. For classes that meet daily, the penalties outlined above apply if you go over 6 absences (7th absence=5th absence above). Exams missed due to an excused absence must be made up within a week of returning to classes. Talk to your professor immediately after your return.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using
footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

**Learning Accommodations**
If you require special accommodations, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Carmen G. Hernández (the Faculty coordinator: cgheroje@acu.upo.es) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is **February 21st**. Carmen will explain the options available to you.

**Behavior Policy**
Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student’s attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class. Cell phone use is not allowed and animals (except seeing-eye dogs) are not permitted in the classrooms.

**Course Contents**

**PART I. THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF CONTEMPORARY SPAIN**

**PART II. CORE ACTORS OF THE SPANISH POLITICAL SYSTEM**

**PART III. STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS OF SPANISH POLITICS**

**Class Schedule**

1. **INTRODUCTION TO IR THEORY**

   **29th January – Presentation of course/Introduction to Spain**

   **3rd February – Second Republic and Civil War: Why did Democracy Fail?**


   Watch: Butterfly's Tongue

   **5th February – Francoism**

Watch: Pan's Labyrinth

10th February – The Spanish Transition to Democracy: A miracle?
Class hand-outs – Newspapers

12th February – Class debate and questions about movies
Class hand-outs

PART II. CORE ACTORS OF THE SPANISH POLITICAL SYSTEM

17th February – Crown, Parliament, Government and Judiciary. Who Governs?

19th February – Parties and Party System: How has this happened?

24th February – Spanish Pressure Groups: From Trade Unions to Lobbies
Class hand-outs

26th February – Social Movements in Spain: Is Civil Society Organized?

2nd March – Spanish Political Elites: Usual Suspects?
4th March The Fourth Power? Mass Media in Spain


9th March – MIDTERM EXAM

PART III. STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS OF SPANISH POLITICS

11th March – Exam review & Territorial Political System and Decentralization: Towards Federalism?


16th March – Spain, What Model for a Multicultural Society?

Class hand-outs

18th March – Does Spain Exist? Nationalism(s) in the Peninsula


Watch: Lobo

23rd March – Are times changing? Political Culture in Spain


30th March – Political campaigns presentations

1st April – Spain, a sui generis Model of Welfare State

13th April – Transparency and Quality of Democracy: Is Spain a Corrupted Country?
Reading: Class hand-outs

15th April – Spanish Foreign Relations. US – Spain
Class hand-outs

20th April – Recent Developments in Spanish Politics: Social rights pioneers?
Class hand-outs

22nd April – Spanish Economy, a new hope?
Reading: OECD (2018). Economic Survey of Spain

4th, 6th & 11th May – Debate Contest

13th May – Exam review & prospect for Spain

TBA – FINALS
Holidays

Friday, February 28 – Día de Andalucía

Sunday, April 5 – Sunday, April 12 - Semana Santa (Holy Week)

Saturday, April 18 - Saturday, April 25 – Feria de Abril (Seville’s April Fair)

Friday, May 1 - Labor Day