

SPAN315E Spanish Civilization and Culture

Dan Manuel Serradilla Avery

Office: Bldg 25 (CUI)

Email: dmserave@acu.upo.es

Office Hours: by appointment only

Course Information:

Fall 2021

Spanish Civilization & Culture

M/W 1600-1720hrs

Course Description

In this course, students will become familiar with the underlying anthropological and sociological foundations of modern Spanish culture. In fact, the course contents will provide them with a solid theoretical understanding of the cultural idiosyncrasy of the Spanish people in order that, as the term moves forward, they may be able to critically apply those tools when giving meaning to their daily experiences interacting with local people and customs.

Course Goals and Methodology

The main goal of this course is to increase the students' knowledge and appreciation of Spanish culture and its people. Accordingly, Spain's richness and diversity will be explored through the critical analysis of the most relevant socio-cultural phenomena which constitute its present identity. Through said comprehensive overview of defining themes and topics, students should be able to make the most of their immersion experience.

The methodology of the course will be based on an eclectic and complementary academic and experiential approach to culture teaching by virtue of which theory and practice feed one another bidirectionally. In other words, class work will both anticipate and help contextualize out of class experiences in as much as out of class experiences will also serve to confirm and/or question scholarly discussions previously held in the classroom.

Learning Objectives

Through this course, students will:

- ! Understand the latent and patent ideological substrates governing Spanish culture.
- ! Analyze socialization practices, customs and rituals as they are experiencing them themselves.
- ! Describe and evaluate candidly and critically the degree of depth, width and breadth of their immersion experience.
- ! Demonstrate that culture differences can always be handled successfully.

Required Texts

There is no single textbook for this course; rather, a series of readings will be provided to the student from various sources, dividing our reading material along the following lines – main readings and secondary readings:

Main readings:

- Stanton, Edward F., *Handbook of Spanish Culture* (Greenwood Press, 1999)
- Stanton, Edward F., *Culture and Customs of Spain* (Greenwood Press, 2002)
- Hooper, John. *The New Spaniards*. (Penguin Book, 2006)

Secondary readings:

- Kern, Robert W., *The Regions of Spain. A Reference Guide to History & Culture* (Greenwood Press, 1995)
- Afinoguénova E., & Martí-Olivella, J., Eds., *Spain Is (Still) Different* (Lexington Books, 2008)
- Mitchell, Timothy., *Passion Culture: Emotion, Religion, and Society in Southern Spain* (U. Penn. 1990)
- Jordan B., and Morgan-Tamosunas R., *Contemporary Spanish Cultural Studies* (Arnold Press, 2000)
- Tremlett, Giles, *Ghosts of Spain: Travels through Spain and its silent past* (Walker & Co., 2006)
- Douglas, Carrie B., *Bulls, Bullfighting, and Spanish Identities* (U. Arizona, 1997)
- Labanyi, Jo., Ed., *Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spain* (Oxford, 2000)
- Mar-Molinero C. and Smith A., Eds, *Nationalism, and the nation in the Iberian Peninsula* (Berg, 1996)

Course Requirements and Grading

Oral participation is very important, and each student is expected to contribute enthusiastically and to be courteous while in class. The whole course is structured around class discussion based on reading assignments, teacher instruction and in-class debates, but also from participation in cultural events, and active learning. Class participation will be graded in accordance to the frequency, quality and relevance of the students' contributions to discussion. Students must come prepared to class, which means that each chapter must be read *prior* to class (excluding the first week of classes). Due to the nature of this course, active participation outside the classroom is a must; particularly any events that relates to Spanish culture.

Apart from participation there will also be two quizzes and a small presentation. The quizzes will take the form of open ended (short) questions, which may take just a word or a few lines to answer. These questions may appear again in the examination. But there will also be a small presentation, which will take the form of a class discussion. The topic of the presentation, along with the groups presenting will be discussed with-in the first two weeks of the course.

Finally, there will be two exams (a midterm and a final) based upon the material from class, readings, but the instructor may include aspects from current events in Spain as they relate to class (for example: a student commentary of a news article related to this course). Both exams have the same format – an initial part with short-answer questions, followed by a series of short essays or a single, longer, essay. In theory, neither the exam nor the quizzes are cumulative, but due to the nature of this course some aspects from previous material must be utilize in later parts of this course; for this reason the final exam is worth 5% more than the final

The final grade is broken down as follows:

Class Participation	15%
Presentation	10%
Quizzes (2)	20%
Exams (midterm & final)	55%

Missed or Late Work

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be typed according to the guidelines given and must be submitted at the beginning of each class, or the given time if submitted. All assignments will be graded using the Spanish grade scale.

General Course Policies

Each student is expected to be familiar with the course syllabus. Students are expected to focus their full attention on the class, arrive on time, and stay until class ends. 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.

Students are expected to listen and respect other points of view. Phone calls, social media, email, or Internet browsing at any time during class are not acceptable during class except for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor. You are responsible for any and all course material covered in class, announcements, and/or handouts if you are not present for any reason. Students will be held responsible to be up to date by attending to class regularly and checking both email and the Blackboard site of the course frequently (monitor your email and Blackboard announcements at least once every 24 hours).

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 Punctuality

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.

COVID-19

If an absence is related to COVID-19 the procedure to follow will be in accordance to the current legislation in the region of Andalucía, Spain.

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. The International Center may also report this to your home university. 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, or have any other medical condition you deem may affect your class performance, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Rubén Díaz (rdialop@acu.upo.es) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is September 24. Rubén 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.

Course Schedule & Content Areas

Unit 1 – Introduction & brief history:

Session 1 – Introduction to the course

Session 2 – History Part I: prehistory to 1500s

Session 3 – History Part II: 1500 to 2000s

Readings: Hooper, chapter 1, 2

Unit 2 – Spain Today: geography, political division, and regions:

Session 4 – Geography of the Iberian Peninsula and its influence

Session 5 – Geographical & Political divisions

Session 6 – Regional diversity, part I

Session 7 – Regional diversity, part II – **QUIZ 1 – Mon. Sep 27th**

Readings: Stanton, *Culture and...*, Preface & chapter 1; Stanton, *Handbook...*, Introduction

Unit 3 – Contemporary Spanish Society:

Session 8 – Language

Session 9 – Art

Session 10 – Society

Readings: Stanton, *Culture and...*, chapter 3; Stanton, *Handbook...*, chapter 1; Hooper, chapter 9 & 31; Azucena Garcia, *Moving away from a typical Mediterranean diet*;

Unit 4 – Contemporary Spanish Politics:

Session 11 – Spanish politics since 1975 to 2000s

Session 12 – Current political parties, and ideologies

Session 13 – Looking back? Political correctness, identity, and Spanish history

Readings: Hooper, chapter 4, 5, 6

Session 14 – Midterm Exam. (Wed. Oct. 20th)



Unit 5 – Education, faith, and religion:

Session 15 – Education in Spain, or lack thereof

Session 16 – Faith (and fiestas)

Session 17 – Religion in Spain today

Readings: Stanton, *Culture and...*, chapter 2; Stanton, *Handbook...*, chapter 2; Hooper, chapter 8

Unit 6 – Social life: fiestas, bars, sports, and leisure (... and bars):

Session 18 – Fiesta, festivities, and the never end cycle

Session 19 – Sports in Spain, and leisure (tourism)

Session 20 – The bar

Readings: Stanton, *Culture and...*, chapter 3; Stanton, *Handbook...*, chapter 3, 4, 5; Graña et al. *Effects of Viewing Videos of Bullfights on Spanish Children*; Gamela Juan, *Attitude towards Alcohol: Spain; Spain has one bar per 132 inhabitants*; Douglass, C., *The Fiesta Cycle of "Spain"*;

Unit 7 – Stereotypes & cultural shock:

Session 21 – Tourism in Spain – **QUIZ 2 – Wed. Nov. 17th**

Session 22 – Shock and re-shock

Readings: Hooper, chapter 7 & 31; Yuko Aoyama, *Artist, Tourist, and the State*;

Unit 8 – Student Presentations:

Session 23 –

Session 24 –

Session 25 –

Session 26 –

Session 27 – Final Exam. (Date/time TBA)

Visits (optional & free):

-Carmona: Nov. 12th – all day.

-Museum of Fine Arts of Seville: Nov. 24 & 25 – 1830hrs.

Holidays - No classes will be held

Tuesday, October 12

Monday, November 1

Monday, December 6

Tuesday, December 7

Wednesday December 8

***This syllabus is subject to change.**