



## **SPAN315E Spanish Civilization and Culture**

**Professor:** Manuel Mejías Borrero  
**Office:** building 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, office 10  
**Email:** mmejbor@upo.es  
**Office Hours:** Weds. 10:45-11:45p and by appoint.

**Course Information:**  
Spring 2022  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
4:00p-5:20p

### **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**

A course pack with all the required reading assignments will be permanently available on the university online platform.

Additional bibliographical, audiovisual and online sources

Chislett, William. *Spain. What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: OUP, 2013.  
 Gies, David (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*. CUP, 1999.  
 Hooper, John. *The New Spaniards*. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Penguin Book, 2006.  
 Richardson, Bill. *Spanish Studies: An Introduction*. London: Arnold, 2001.  
 Brennan, Gerald. *The Spanish Labyrinth*. (new ed. of 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition). CUP, 1990.  
 Kamen, Henry. *Imagining Spain: Historical Myth and National Identity*. YUP, 2008.  
 Payne, Stanley. *España: Una Historia Única*. Temas de Hoy, 2008.

Arteseros, Alfonso. *España en la Memoria*: Intereconomía TV, 2009.  
 García de Cortázar, Fernando (coord.) *Memoria de España*: RTVE, 2004.  
 Prego, Victoria. *Historia Audiovisual de la Transición*: Tiempo, 2003.

[www.cervantes.es](http://www.cervantes.es) - Instituto Cervantes  
[www.mecd.gob.es](http://www.mecd.gob.es) - Spain's Department of Education and Culture  
[www.rtve.es](http://www.rtve.es) - Spanish National Public Broadcaster  
<http://www.accioncultural.es> - Acción Cultural Española

## Course Requirements and Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Participation (15%): The whole course is structured around class discussion based on reading assignments, teacher instruction and in-class debates. Class participation will be graded in accordance to the frequency, quality and relevance of the students' contributions to discussion (see rubric below). Similarly, it should be noted that keeping with the General Course Policies and Behavior Policies listed below will also condition the students' participation grade.
- Discussion board participation (5%): The students need to participate on a weekly or bi-weekly basis in our discussion board answering and commenting questions about topics suggested by the professor. Each thread will have a participation deadline.
- Mid-term Exam (20%): This test is aimed at evaluating the students' knowledge of the different topics covered until then with a focus on detail. It will hinge around the information from the readings and the material presented and discussed in class and will feature true/false questions, definitions, multiple choice activities, short questions and a 2-page long essay at the end.
- Mid-term Paper (20%): The students will have to conduct some research and write a 3,000-word paper whose topic they will have to choose from a list that the professor will provide beforehand. The paper will be typed and printed (Times New Roman pt.12, 1 & ½ spaces). Its grade will depend on parameters such as thematic pertinence and coherence, appropriateness of language use, quality of the cross-cultural reflections included and reliability of the sources explored. Handwritten and emailed papers will not be accepted.
- Group Presentations (15%): Towards the end of the term, students will be expected to deliver interactive group presentations about one of the topics proposed by the instructor. Each group will be formed by a maximum of 5 members, each of whom will have to present an aspect of the topic selected for about 10 minutes. Previously, the groups will be required to hand in a neat outline of the overall presentation to the instructor and their classmates. The overall grade will be based on each student's presentation along with the overall quality of the group performance.

- Final Exam (25%): This test will measure the students' ability to critically react to the material covered in class, with a focus on establishing thematic links among topics. They will be asked to write a 4-page long essay on 1 of the 5 different topics which the professor will previously select and announce in class.

What follows is the rubric that will be used to determine the students' participation grade. Designed by Ana Miqueles Schreiner, it is available on [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu).

0-No Cumplió	1-Deficiente	2-Regular	3-Bueno	4-Muy Bueno	5-Excelente	N/A-No Aplica	
CRITERIOS	0	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
1. Contribuye frecuentemente a las Discusiones en clase.							
2. Demuestra interés en las discusiones en clase.							
3. Contesta preguntas del facilitador y sus compañeros.							
4. Formula preguntas pertinentes al tema de la clase.							
5. Viene preparado(a) a clase.							
6. Contribuye a la clase con material e Información adicional.							
7. Presenta argumentos fundamentados en las lecturas y trabajos de la clase							
8. Demuestra atención y apertura a los puntos y argumentos de sus compañeros.							
9. Contesta preguntas y planteamientos de sus compañeros.							
10.Demuestra iniciativa y creatividad en las actividades de clase.							

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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 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. 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 February 24<sup>th</sup>. 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. Cell phone use is not allowed and animals (except seeing-eye dogs) are not permitted in the classrooms.

### **Course Contents**

Unit 1: Understanding Spain  
 Unit 2: Contemporary Spanish Society  
 Unit 3: Contemporary Spanish Politics

Unit 4: Contemporary Spanish Art  
 Unit 5: Education in Spain  
 Unit 6: Faith and Religion  
 Unit 7: Social Life and Leisure. Communication in Spanish.  
 Unit 8: Spanish Regional Diversity  
 Unit 9: What lies ahead? National and transnational challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.  
 Unit 10: Stereotyping and Culture Shock

**Class Schedule (the date you see is the first day of class in the week for this subject)**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Course Introduction. What do you know about Spain and its culture, peoples, etc.?

Unit 1: Read "The Change in Spain" & Texts about Contemporary Spain.

**Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 1: Read Texts about Spain's History.

Unit 1: Read "Spanishness: How Spanish Are the Spaniards?" Participation in discussion board.

**Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 2: Read "From Hunger to Prosperity".

Unit 2: Read "Sex: From Francoist Prudery to Gay Marriage." & "Men and Women: Machismo Meltdown". Comparisons with your own countries/cultures. Participation in discussion board.

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Unit 2: Read "Family Values and Home Truths."

Unit 3: Read "History, Politics and Culture (1936-1975). Participation in discussion board.

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Unit 3: Read "History, Politics and Culture (1975-1996).

Unit 3: Read assigned article (or videos) on contemporary Spanish politics.

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 4: Read "Changing Traditions: *flamenco* I". Review for Mid-term

**Mid-Term Exam THURSDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Mid-Term Paper Due THURSDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 4: Read "Changing Traditions: *Flamenco* (II) and Bullfighting.

Unit 5: Read "Home and School: Learning to Be a Spaniard." Participation in discussion board.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Unit 5: Read assigned article on Spanish education. Differences and similarities, Spanish university system vs. others (students' own system).

Unit 6: Read "Faith and Religion: What Do Spaniards Believe?"

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 6: Read assigned article on religion in Spain. The Holy Week ("*Semana Santa*") in Seville and other cities.

Unit 7: Read "Communication and politeness in Spanish". Participation in discussion board.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> (one class; no class on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>)**

Unit 7: Place, Time and Space in Spanish culture. Read "Social life and leisure" and "Spanish Cuisine". Prepare Group Presentations.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 8: Spain's regional diversity. Group Presentations.

**Seville's Fair** and its curiosities (La Feria). Participation in discussion board.

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Unit 8: Group Presentations.

Unit 9: What lies ahead? Challenges, dilemmas, unavoidable changes. Participation in discussion board.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> (one class)**

Unit 10: Read assigned article on stereotyping and culture shock.

*Final conclusions* after the semester. Review for Final Exam.

**Holidays**

- Monday, February 28: Día de Andalucía.
- NO class on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.