



SPAN315E Spanish Civilization and Culture

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Information:
Spring 2021
Tuesdays & Thursdays (4:00p-
5:45p, check online/in-person schedule)

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.

This course will be taught both online and on-site (except for those few who will follow this whole course online).

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.

Technical Requirements

This course requires that students have/bring their own laptop, since tablets, Chromebook or cell phones may not meet our virtual platform requirements. Also, students are expected to have a high-speed Internet Service Provider. A webcam and a headset (preferred) or microphone for your computer is also required.

You should be proficient in the following:

- basic computer skills
- email management
- sending and receiving attachments via email
- using a web browser
- finding resources through search engines
- using productivity applications such as Googledocs and Google Slides
- using educational technology such as: Kahoot, Blackboard Collaborate, or Zoom
- familiarity with creating PDF files and submit them on Blackboard
- the ability to be self-directed in learning new technology skills (e.g. access to support to learn necessary skills for Blackboard, or a step-by-step video tutorial)

For technical problems with Blackboard, please contact Jorge Pascual (jpasdia@acu.upo.es).

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

Fernández Santiago, Miriam. *Spanish Civilization and Culture*. Seville, 2006.
 Gies, David (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*. CUP, 1999.
 Hooper, John. *The New Spaniards*. (2nd edition). Penguin Book, 2006.
 Richardson, Bill. *Spanish Studies: An Introduction*. London: Arnold, 2001.
 Brennan, Gerald. *The Spanish Labyrinth*. (new ed. of 2nd 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 - Instituto Cervantes
www.mecd.gob.es - Spain's Department of Education and Culture
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 (25%): 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.
- Mid-term Exam (25%): 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 2500-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.
- Final Exam (30%): 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.

0-No Cumplió	1-Deficiente	2-Regular	3-Buena	4-Muy Buena	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 Absentee Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all classes, both online and on-site. All absences must be justified by a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated). More than one unjustified absence will adversely affect your final grade. Professors will keep track of each student's attendance and active participation during the course. Students are expected to have their webcams turned on during the online sessions.

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 Rubén Díaz López (the Faculty coordinator: rdialop@acu.upo.es) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is January 29th. 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, Faith and Religion
 Unit 6: Social Life and Leisure. The Media
 Unit 7: Spanish Regional Diversity. Main present-day challenges
 Unit 8: Stereotyping and Culture Shock and questions for the future

Class Schedule (date is Monday in each week)

Jan. 25th: Course Introduction. Unit 1: Understanding Spain. The change in Spain. Previous ideas about Spain.

Feb. 1st: Unit 1: Analysing the changes and the reasons/consequences. Intro to Unit 2.

Feb. 8th: Unit 2: Contemporary Spanish Society I and II.

Feb. 15th: Unit 3: Contemporary Spanish Politics I.

Feb. 22nd: Unit 3: Contemporary Spanish Politics II.
Mid-Term Exam (Thursday, Feb.25th)

March. 2nd (March 1st is an Andalusian holiday) : Unit 4: Spanish Art and Culture. *Mid-Term Paper Due*

March 8th: Unit 5: Education, Faith and Religion. 'Holy Week'.

March 15th: Unit 6: Social Life and Leisure. The Media

March 22nd: Unit 7: Spanish Regional Diversity. Main present-day challenges

April 5: Unit 8: Stereotyping and Culture Shock and questions for the future. **REVIEW**

FINAL EXAM (from April 13th to April 15th; date for our exam to be confirmed)

Holidays

- Monday, March 1st: "Puente." No classes will be held.
- Sunday, March 28th - Sunday, April 4th: Semana Santa (Holy Week).