



LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Spanish Civilization

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: : MADR 3013

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Contact Hours: 45

Instructor:

Course Description

This course aims to offer a general view of Spanish culture and society through readings, lectures, and cultural activities. This semester will focus on a few topics portraying the transformations experienced in the country during the last years: the political system, social and economic problems, multi-ethnic society, new role of women, new family models, and present image of Spain.

We will combine lectures, PowerPoint presentations, videos, discussions of required readings, and group debates. Sessions will be conducted in Spanish. Being in Spain gives you a great opportunity to widen your approach to culture through language, and one of the aims of this class is to help you achieve this goal.

All students are expected to come to all sessions prepared, with all indicated assignments completed beforehand.

Course Objectives

Methodology

Participation

All classes (including lectures and activities) require your active participation. In order to receive a high grade, you must be prepared in advance and make meaningful observations, comments, or questions that prove your comprehension of and interest in the subject.

Group Research Project

- Teams of four students
- Research on one of the four following “Comunidades Autónomas”: Andalucía, Cataluña, País Vasco, or Galicia. All Comunidades must be studied, so hurry up! Create a work group soon and you will have a wider choice.
- Sources: Hooper, bibliography (supplied by the instructor), internet, a minimum of eight interviews of Spanish people from outside the studied Comunidad, even a visit to the Comunidad.
- Structure:
 - Introduction
 - Geography
 - History
 - Culture and Traditions
 - The chosen Comunidad and the rest of Spain (use the interviews)
 - Conclusions
 - Bibliography/Sources
 - Format: 10 to 15 pages, Times New Roman 12, double spaced.

Individual Class Presentation

You will choose topics and dates at the beginning of the course. Presentations can refer to the texts contained in the booklet or to any other text you select, as long as it highlights the topic being analyzed in class at that moment (see calendar for topics and dates). You will hand an abstract (and a copy of the text, if not in the booklet) to the instructor and the rest of the students at the moment of the presentation. The presentations should be ten minutes in length, and you may use any kind of available support.

Individual Short Essay

You will write a brief essay (maximum three pages or 1,000 words). The main topic is The Change in Spain through the Eyes of a Spaniard. Select someone you have met (family, Fundación, friends), have a general talk with him/her about his/her life, choose a few subjects,

prepare some questions, discuss the issues with him/her during a short interview, and write your essay.

Midterm and Final Exam

Midterm and final exams will test your knowledge on topics covered up to the exam date. The type of exam will be discussed in detail in class.

IMPORTANT: No papers or requirements will be accepted after due dates.

Course Prerequisites

Completion of four semesters of college level Spanish or its equivalent

Required Reading / Materials

All students must use for this class a selection of texts, presented in a booklet (which you can purchase in the Fundación/Reprografía on the first day of class). You will use them for discussions and presentations.

Chislett, William. Spain. What Everyone Needs to Know. OUP. 2013. Shubert, Adrian, Álvarez Junco, José, Editors. Spanish History since 1808. Bloomsbury Academic. 2000.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Participation in class	10%
Group research project	30%
Individual class presentation	15%
Individual short essay	15%
Midterm exam	10%
Final exam	20%
Overall grade	100%

Course Content

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Unit 1

Theme

- Introduction; Enterrar a los muertos: La memoria histórica.

Unit 2

Theme

- Political Change. La “Transición”; Spain's Political System

Unit 3

Theme

- Monarchy, political parties, and corruption; from emigration to immigration.

Unit 4

Theme

- Spain is different. The cultural legacy; the economy of Spain. From miracle to crisis.

Unit 5

Theme

- An angry society? Welfare and education; young people and unemployment.

Unit 6

Theme

- Family: crisis or change?; Modern families: Gay marriage. Review for the midterm exam.

Unit 7

Theme

- MID-TERM EXAM; Leaving home. Spain vs. USA.

Unit 8

Theme

- Women under Franco's regime.

Unit 9

Theme

- Women's new roles; The historical image of Spain; the new Spaniards.

Unit 10

Theme

- A little bit of history: Roman Hispania; Visigoths & Muslims in Spain: The Three Cultures.

Unit 11

Theme

- Spanish Gastronomy; Catholic kings. Carlos I.

Unit 12

Theme

- Felipe II; El Escorial; Decline of Spanish Empire. The importance of the American Discovery.

Unit 13

Theme

- Bourbons in Spain: The Enlightenment; Las fiestas de España: bailes, deportes, artesanía, etc.

Unit 14

Theme

- Review and questions; final exam.

Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (e.g., readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's

responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).