DESCRIPTION
This goal of this course is to give students an introduction to a collection of philosophic questions that could be considered characteristic of ‘Spanish thought,’ as well as complete the students’ formation in their knowledge of Spain’s culture and realities. Throughout the semester we will be examining various questions which have emerged in Spanish philosophy, situating them both chronologically and thematically. The specific topics we will be addressing include: happiness and justice as the fundamentals of ethics, national affairs vs. foreignness, Spain and America, truth and its philosophical, scientific, and poetic nature, and death and beauty as constants of ‘tragic thought.’

OBJECTIVES
• The primary objective of the course is to introduce students to the philosophical problems and theories prevalent in Spanish thought

INSTRUCTOR
TBD

METHODOLOGY
This class will be taught through lecture, discussion, readings, and visits to museum and other relevant places in Toledo. Student are expected to come to class prepared, having completed any assigned reading, and actively participate in the classroom.

PREREQUISITES
Spanish 1004

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS
• In addition to these texts, students will be assigned readings from other texts specifically relating to each topic

GRADING
The following concepts will factor into the final grade: Acquired knowledge of the material, class attendance, and participation, which will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

• Knowledge will be evaluated through individual written work and two exams: a midterm and a final. The material evaluated in the midterm will not enter into the final.
At the request of the students both exams can be replaced by essays related to the specific contents of each evaluation and directed by the professor. The minimum length of these essays is 15 pages double spaced.

Class attendance is obligatory for both classroom sessions and fieldtrips to museums and other relevant places. If a student has three or more unexcused absences, they will automatically lose 20% on the final grade.

During the course students will be doing groups reading of José Ortega y Gasset’s *Qué es Filosofía?* It is essential that students complete the reading, in pairs or groups of three, and prepare the part of the book assigned to them to be presented in class. Completing this reading is essential to passing the course and can affect he portion of the final grade related to acquired knowledge by up to 10%.

### CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Summary of how grades are weighted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CLASS SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION

**WEEK 1**

**LESSON 1**  
*Philosophical knowledge among other types of knowledge*
- A question of beginnings: Philosophical thought and mythical thought
- Philosophical and scientific thought: The question of truth
- The ethical-political dimension of philosophy
## WEEK 2

**LESSON 2**  
**Is there such a thing as ‘Spanish Thought’**  
- The national and the historical as problems of thought. Some differentiating traits of ‘Spanish thought’

## WEEK 3

**LESSON 3**  
**Seneca and happiness**  
- The mark of stoicism on thought

## WEEK 4

**LESSON 4**  
**The Spanish Renaissance**  
- Erasmism as a moral and intellectual critique in its time. The figure of Luis Vive as prototypical of the Spanish renaissance  
- Special attention given to the topic of mankind and subjectivity

## WEEK 5

**LESSON 5**  
**Spanish mysticism and its contribution to thought**  
- General aspects of mysticism. Its poetic nature.

## WEEK 6

**LESSON 6**  
**The arrival of the Spanish in America**  
- "Las islaz extrañas, los ríos sonorosos. The symbolic sense of America.  
- A moral problem: Are the native people human like the rest of us?

## WEEK 7

**LESSON 7**  
**The Baroque period and representation**  
- The world as representation. Books and the Baroque period.  
- Lucidity and Grace: Baltasar Gracián.  
- Philosophical Reading of: *El Criticón*. Advances in tragic thought
### WEEK 8

**LESSON 8**

Unamuno’s Revision: to be happy, to be Spanish, to be true…as a problem.
- Thought in his time: thought in tension
- ‘I am moral’: Agony as a philosophical category
- Truth and Fiction: Spain as conflict

### WEEK 9

**LESSON 9**

The crisis of our time. José Ortega and Gasset.
- Perspectivism and viral reason
- Life only becomes somewhat transparent before historical reason
- Return to philosophy

### WEEK 10

**LESSON 10**

Thoughts from another point of view. María Zambrano.
- The poetic and the philosophic

### WEEK 11

**LESSON 11**

Debating Spanish Thought: Course Conclusions

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**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 (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. The assigned readings relate to topics that will be discussed in the week to follow and can be found in your course reader. This allows you to prepare for class discussions in advance. If you should like to investigate any given week’s topics further please refer to the recommended readings listed.

If you need to miss class for medical reasons, please let the Director of Academic Affairs know in advance of meetings so plans can be made accordingly. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the 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 AND 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 and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.