

Spanish Philosophical Thought

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: TLDO 3516

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Contact Hours: 45 hours

Course 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.'

Course Objectives

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

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.

Course Prerequisites

Spanish 1004

Required Reading / Materials

- J. Ortega y Gasset *¿Qué es filosofía?*: ORTEGA Y GASSET, J., *¿Qué es filosofía?*, Revista de Occidente, Madrid, 1957.
- ABELLÁN, J.L. *Historia crítica del pensamiento español*, 5 vol., Espasa-Calpe, Madrid, 1979.
- In addition to these texts, students will be assigned readings from other texts specifically relating to each topic

Grading

Grading Rubric

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 field trips 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 the portion of the final grade related to acquired knowledge by up to 10%.

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A-	90–92	
B+	87–89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	
C+	77–79	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	
D+	67–69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
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.

Course Content

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 ínsulas 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

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 (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 & 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](#).