



Universidad de Sevilla/Faculty of Geography and History

Course GB-01

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY SPAIN

(45 class hours)

Lecturer: Dr. Jose Leonardo Ruiz Sanchez (leonardo@us.es)

Substitute Lecturer: Dr. Inmaculada Cordero Olivero (icordero@us.es)

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this Course is to provide students with as inclusive an overview as possible of the Contemporary History of the Hispanic World, taking into account the period between the final third of the eighteenth century and the present day. In a basic, yet considered way, an exploration will be made of the political, institutional, social, economic, and cultural factors involved. Accordingly, the Course will be geared toward ensuring that students assimilate not only knowledge, but also critical capacity, thus enabling them to acquire a measured understanding of our era, while, at the same time, endeavoring to make them aware of the fundamental structural changes that have contributed to forging this same geographical environment.

With this aim in mind, the syllabus is articulated in terms of units of subject matter which will enable students to bring into conjunction an overall vision, global in character, involving the major historical processes that have affected the development of Spain, and the Hispanic World, since the end of the eighteenth century, together with a more detailed approach to turns-of-event, issues, and junctures of a more specific, and especially noteworthy, kind.

METHODOLOGY

Two modules per week, each lasting two hours, will be used to cover the syllabus. The lectures given will offer guidance with regard to the basic aspects of syllabus content, while students will be encouraged to enlarge upon class sessions by consulting recommended reference works. Certain class sessions, of a more practical nature, will revolve around the analysis and commentary of texts and other kinds of material (informative diagrams, statistical tables, etc.), as well the screening of documentary films.

Fundamentally, emphasis will be placed on the development of a capacity for comprehension, reflexion, and critical acumen. In this sense, the methodological approach employed has as its aim the reinforcement of students' capacity for analysis, synthesis, systematization, and comparison, as well as for the searching out, selection, and categorizing of the elements that constitute the task in hand.

The lecturers taking part in the Course will endeavor to bring students into direct contact with available research sources, together with state-of-the-art bibliography.



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Thus, teaching will mainly tend toward the guidance of students within their process of personal learning, each of them being encouraged to act innovatively.

SYLLABUS

1. THE CRISIS OF THE ANCIEN REGIME IN SPAIN

- 1.1. The Reign of Charles IV.
- 1.2. The War of Independence.
- 1.3. The Reign of Ferdinand VII.

2. THE ISABELINE ERA

- 2.1. The Regency of Maria Cristina and the Carlist War.
- 2.2. Liberal Spain.
- 2.3. Economy and Society in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.

3. REVOLUTION AND RESTORATION

- 3.1. The Revolution of 1868 and the Transitional Regimes.
- 3.2. The System of the Restoration.
- 3.3. Economic Development and Social Groups.

4. THE CRISIS IN THE SYSTEM DURING THE RESTORATION

- 4.1. The Crisis of '98 and the War between Spain and the United States.
- 4.2. The Undermining of the System of Turn-Taking.
- 4.3. The System in Agony.

5. THE FIRST DICTATORSHIP OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

- 5.1. The Dictatorship of Primo de Rivera and the Attempts at Reform.
- 5.2. Economic Policy.
- 5.3. The Regime's Successes and Failures.

6. THE REPUBLICAN EXPERIENCE AND THE CIVIL WAR (1931-1939)

- 6.1. The Monarchy in Crisis and the Proclamation of the Republic.
- 6.2. The Second Republic: Phases and Issues.
- 6.3. The Civil War.

7. FRANCO'S REGIME

- 7.1. The Political Regime and the International Scenario.
- 7.2. From the Stability Plan to the Plans for Development.
- 7.3. The Crisis of the Seventies and the Death of Franco.
- 7.4. Society and Culture during the Period of Franco's Rule.

8. THE DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY OF JUAN CARLOS I.

- 8.1. The Transition to Democracy.
- 8.2. The Political Parties.
- 8.3. The System of Autonomous Regions.
- 8.4. The Integration of Spain in Europe.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CARR, R. España 1808-1975. Barcelona: Ariel, 1998 (2a edición)
- COMELLAS GARCIA-LLERA, J.L. Historia de España Contemporánea. Madrid: Rialp, 1998



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PAREDES ALONSO, J., coord. Historia de España Contemporánea. Barcelona: Ariel, 2006.

SANCHEZ MANTERO y otros. Manual de Historia de España, Siglo XIX. Madrid: Historia 16, 1990.

ASSESSMENT

In keeping with the Statutes of the University of Sevilla, with current regulations concerning examinations, scoring, and grading, and with the Agreements reached with regard to the Program of which this Course forms a part, the following assessment criteria will be adopted:

Two examinations will be set, one mid-way through the semester and the other, a final exam, at its close, the actual dates being decided in due time by the Program Directors. The exams will be in two parts:

a) 50 items, with regard to which students will be expected to indicate the corresponding correct answers. Each item will be scored as a decimal point so as to reach a total possible score of 5 points.

b) The answering of two out of the three questions included. Each of the written replies will be scored on a scale ranging between 0 and 2.5 points. In this section, positive account will be taken of how students not only show their specific knowledge of the syllabus content concerned, but also their capacity to interrelate, and link up intelligently, ideas, issues, and events; also looked for: clarity in the arguments put forward, a rich range of vocabulary, together with a capacity for conceptualization and expressiveness.