



SAIIE

"Your Life Experience; Your Education"



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN - PLATTEVILLE

Spanish Civilization.

Course Code: SOC 3620

Prerequisite: None

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 42

Credits: 3

Professor: Virginia Álvarez

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES.

This course is aimed at studying characteristic features of Spanish life, culture and personality. Historical and cultural references will be treated to make students understand better the Spanish culture and civilization. Understanding a culture, especially when it is as complex as Spain's, requires an insight into the historical circumstances that have shaped it. This course targets a number of historical, traditional and social aspects that always point towards the present and to the most significant and emblematic features of Spain's current reality.

Class attendance together with assigned readings; handouts and notes taken in class will help students to get the aims of this course. Students are expected to participate expressing their opinions based on their daily experience in Spain.

2. NORMS IN CLASS

Attendance is mandatory and it will be taken at each class meeting. If a student has more than 3 unjustified absences at the end of the course his/her final grading will be affected as follow: 4 absences will be penalized 4 %; 5 will be 6% off, 6 will be penalized 8% as the 7th, 10% will be taken off the final grading.

As far as punctuality is concerned no students will be allowed in class five minutes later than class time.

Exams must be done on the day fixed beforehand. If an exam or any assignment is missed and requires make up, the professor needs a justification of the absence. No travel justifications or excuses will be accepted.

In class is not allowed eating or drinking.

Plagiarism or cheating is sanctioned with a grade of F (zero) for the work involved.

If a student cheats in an exam, automatically will have F (zero) in the class.

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA.

In order to obtain their grade, the students will have to read required readings and participate in class with discussions of the specific topic for that class. There will be three written exams in which students will be assessed on the topics covered in



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each different parts of the course. The three exams will be made up of short answers and short essays.

There will also be a final paper in which the students will work on a topic related to Spain.

Material preparation, completed reading before class, and discussions are all our participation. Attendance and punctuality are expected and laxity in these areas will have a negative effect.

4. DATES, EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

1ST EXAM _____ 25%

2ND EXAM _____ 25%

3RD EXAM _____ 25%

Attendance and class participation: 10%

Final Assignment/Oral Report: 15%

The students will work a cultural aspect of Spanish life or tradition, policy or any current event that they are interested about; otherwise the teacher will give a list of proposed topics to work about.

The students will present a written report, which follow the format of an academic paper. This project will then be presented orally to the rest of the class.

Any material from the Internet, interview, people, newspapers... can be included, but the students need to make reference to the material used at the end of the project. It is necessary for the student to show and express his/her opinion about the topic. You can ask the professor for help or orientation on your report at any time.

The content of each oral presentation will be included in the final exam.

General Rules for Paper:

The required papers must be printed out. No handwritten paper will be admitted.



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They **MUST BE HANDED IN ON TIME**. No unjustified delayed paper will be corrected or evaluated.

Format: Word Document / Paper Size: A4 / Font: Arial 12 / 1.5 interline space. 6 or 7 pages plus an extra one to mention the sources.

Number each page on the right down corner in your written report and place your name, class code and date (day, month, year) on the right up corner.

For example: SOC 3620- T1- 21-4 -16

5. GRADING.

97 – 100	A+	77 – 79	C+
93 – 96	A	73 – 76	C
90 – 92	A-	70 – 72	C-
87 – 89	B+	67 – 69	D+
83 – 86	B	63 – 66	D
80 – 82	B-	60 – 62	D-

Below 60 – F

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Try to come prepared for every class by having completed the assigned readings. Take notes while you read, as well as in class, and make sure you understand the significance of the events under consideration. Class attendance is extremely important. The contents given in class time (together with the commentaries made on the readings and maps assigned) will help to understand the significance of the events under consideration.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REQUIRED READINGS:

There will not be a textbook. Required readings, articles and handouts will be given during the course by your teacher, to be used for discussion and examination.



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Selection of chapters from Hooper, John: *The New Spaniards*. Penguin, 2004.

- From Hunger to Prosperity.
- From Dictatorship to Democracy.
- Legacies, Memories and Phantoms.
- Belief and the Church: Emptying Pews.
- Sex: From Francoist Prudery to Gay Marriages.
- Men and Women Meltdown.
- Family Values and Home Truths

A quick guide to customs and etiquette. Culture Smart Spain. 2006

Hooper, John: *The New Spaniards*. Penguin, 2004.

Some of the topics may be changed according to the teacher and/or student's necessities.

Students can use the following public libraries:

Biblioteca Infanta Elena en avda. M^a Luisa s/n

Biblioteca Central de la Universidad de Sevilla en c/ San Fernando n^o 4.

7. CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Introduction to the course. Overview of syllabus.
 - What do students know about Spain and Spanish people?
2. The geography of Spain.
3. Gastronomy of Spain.
 - Visit to a traditional food market.
4. A brief summary from the earliest inhabitants to the Romans.



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5. Islamic Spain.
6. The Christians Kingdoms and the Reconquest.
Reading 1: *Legacies, Memories and Phantoms.*
7. Spain in the 20th century.
 - Period before Franco.
 - Franco's dictatorship.
 - From dictatorship to democracy
 - Nationalisms and radical groups: E.T.A.

Reading 2: *From Hunger to Prosperity.*

Reading 3: *From Dictatorship to Democracy.*

8. Regions of Spain and population.
 - Language differences.
 - Economical resources.
 - Size and growth of the population.
9. Religion in Spain.
 - Activity: What do people think about religion and the Catholic Church today?
Reading 4: *Belief and the Church: Emptying Pews*
 - Church and State
 - Religious (in) tolerance: contraceptives, abortion and divorce.

Reading 5: *Sex: from Francoist Prudery to Gay Marriages.*

10. Social Institutions.
 - Activity: What do Spanish people think about their family values, sexual equalities and sexual changes?
 - Why young Spaniards do not leave their parent's home?
 - The family.

Family values. Marriage under Franco. The divorce debate. The youth.

- Men and women Machismo. Women's status under Franco. Feminism/sexual equality.



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Reading 6: *Men and Women Meltdown.*

Reading 7: *Family Values and Home Truth.*

11. A Changing society. Immigration.

12. Education and health.

- Educational system in Spain. Comparing with the North American system
- Public safety.

13. The Spanish economy.

14. Some topics of Spanish lifestyle.

- Siesta.
- Fiestas.
- Attitudes and lifestyles.

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