



SAIIE

"Your Life Experience; Your Education"



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN - PLATTEVILLE

Spanish Folklore and Popular Customs

Course code: SOC 3930

Prerequisite: None

Language of Instruction: English

Contact hours: 42

Credits: 3

Professor: Virginia Álvarez Gómez

E mail: valvarez@saiie.com

Term: Summer

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Popular Culture in Spain includes a wide range of themes pertinent to a better understanding of Spanish folklore and personality: history, art, regional differences, politics, habits, social values, traditions, etc. Spain has a unique contact with Mediterranean, Atlantic, European and African cultures.

Throughout this course, students will grasp an insightful understanding of the historical events and social values that have played a critical role in shaping many of Spain's most emblematic cultural and religious events. By the end of this course, students will have learned to look for historical significance in cultural events, critically reflect upon the perception of such events that lead to stereotypes and reflect upon how their own cultural events may be perceived by other cultures.

Learning Objectives:

- To enhance the student's understanding on Spain culture.
- To identify your own cultural values and use this knowledge as a cultural point of reference to critically analyze the local host culture.
- To examine the formation of stereotypes and how generalizations can lead to misguided perspectives, ultimately leading to misunderstandings, conflicts and culture shock.
- To acquire the intercultural competences and communication skills needed to objectively examine social behaviors.

B. 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 can be affected with a 10 % per cent penalization.

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.

No eating or drinking is allowed in class.

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



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

C. 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 two written exams in which students will be assessed on the topics covered in each different parts of the course. The two exams will be made up of short answers and short essays.

There will also be a paper in which the students will work on a topic related to the Spanish folklore, customs, fiestas... The contents can be chosen by the students.

D. DATES, EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

At the beginning of the course the teacher will give the information on how you will be evaluated for this course (exams and assignments).

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

Final Assignment/Oral Report: 15%

The students will work a cultural aspect of Spanish life, tradition, custom...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, interviews with 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 can be printed out. No handwritten paper will be admitted.
- 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



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name, class code and date (day, month, year) on the right up corner. For example:
SOC 3930- T1- 10 -11- 15

E. GRADING:

97- 100 A+ 87-89 B+ 77- 79 C+ 67-69 D+

93- 96 A 83-86 B 73-76 C 63-66 D

90-92 A- 80-82B- 70-72 C- 60- 62 D-

Below 60= F.

F. 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.
Readings for the course:

Carrie B. Douglass, *Bulls, Bullfighting, and Spanish Identities: The University of Arizona Press, 1997. "Spain Resolved: La Fiesta de San Fermín in Pamplona".*

Casas Penélope, *The Foods and Wines of Spain: Eleventh printing, February 1999.*

Casas Penélope, *The Regional Cooking of Spain: April 2000. Published by Alfred A. Knopf.*

Jacobs Michael, *Andalucía: Second edition. Published by Pallas Athens London, 1999. "Gypsies", "Flamenco" "Fiestas y Ferias" "Food and Drink".*

Marvin Garr, *Bullfight, Oxford, UK: B. Blackwell, 1994.*

Meaney Marian, *Culture Smart! Spain, 2003.*

Flamenco: Edited by Claus Schreiner. Amadeus press 1999.



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G. CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE COURSE

What do I know about Spanish culture? What do I know about Spain?

Land and people: A geographical snapshot. The regions and major cities.

A brief History of Spain.

Reading: "The Spanish Stage"

2. VALUES AND ATTITUDES.

2.1. Mañana

2.2. The family. Friends and acquaintances.

2.3. Living for the moment.

What do I know about Spanish people? Spanish stereotypes.

3. GASTRONOMY.

3.1. Raw material according to climatic zones.

3.2. Typical regional cuisine and the different wines and drinks

3.3. The very strong tradition of TAPAS in Spain.

3.4. Some recipes of well-known typical dishes.

Reading 1. Penelope Casas: The regional Cooking of Spain. The Foods and Wines of Spain.

4. CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THE FESTIVE CALENDAR.

4.1. Religious Festivities. The Spanish religious character.

What do Spanish people think about religion?

a) Holy Week

b) "Romerias": El Rocío.

c) El Camino de Santiago (St James' Route)

Reading: Andalucia, ferias and fiestas.

Watching the movie: The Way

4.2. Non Religious Festivities.

a) Carnival. Carnival in Cádiz.

b) Feria de Abril, Seville.

c) Las Fallas in Valencia

d) La Tomatina (tomatoes fight), Buñol.

4.3. Bullfighting. What do Spanish people think about bullfighting?

a) *Bullfightings: The Bull, The fighters and the different parts of a corrida.*

b) *Controversial Spanish fiestas involving animals.*

c) San Fermín (Running of the Bulls). Pamplona.



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Reading: "Spain Resolved: La Fiesta de San Fermín in Pamplona"/Marvin Garr, *Bullfight*

5. GYPSIES IN SPAIN. ORIGINS, ARRIVAL AND CONTRIBUTION TO SPANISH CULTURE.

What do I know about Gypsies? And what do Spanish people feel about them and their situation? What is their contribution to Spanish culture?

Reading: Andalucía. "Gypsies" "Flamenco"

6. FLAMENCO; ROOT AND PRESENT.

Reading: Flamenco (Clau Schreider)

7. REGIONAL MUSIC AND DANCING

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

Please note:

Students can make use of resources that Seville's public libraries offer, especially:

- Biblioteca Infanta Elena en avd. M^a Luisa s/n
- Biblioteca Central de la Universidad de Sevilla en c/ San Fernando nº 4