



Spanish Culture and Society

Institution: EDE Escuela de Español
Academic Credit: 3 Semester Credits**

Description

This course will introduce students to different historical issues that have formed present day Spanish culture and society. Students will learn the cultural background so as to understand how the country evolved into present day Spain. Religious, political and societal issues will be used to come up with a better understanding of modern Spain.

Beginning with an introduction to its geography and languages, this course will touch on such topics as Paleolithic settlement and art, the arrival of new groups, the Islamic conquest and Christian reconquest (Reconquista), medieval kingdoms and their unification, the separate way of Portugal, the birth and death of religious toleration, the rise and fall of Spain in the European state system, and finally, the emergence of one of Europe's most democratic societies. Wherever possible, the course will attempt to place Spain into the larger context of European and Mediterranean society. Basic information will be conferred primarily through lectures by the professor.

Course Registration Code: SOC/HIS/ART/SPA 206

This course is cross-listed due to its multidisciplinary nature. Students must indicate the preferred CRN on the KEI Course Approval Form. The focus of the final project for the course must correspond to the selected Course Registration Code. For example, if a student lists HIS206 on the Course Registration Form, then the final project must focus on history of Spain. Note that the default Course Registration Code is SOC206.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND WORKLOAD BREAKDOWN:		
CONTENT	CLASS ACTIVITY	ASSIGNMENT
Introduction to Spain & Spanish History		
Religion in Spain	Catedral de Burgos	
Burgos and the Kingdom of Castile	Castillo de Burgos	Write one-page report
Spanish society: Traditions, customs and festivities		
Beyond Prehistoric Spain: First Spaniards	Museum of Human Evolution	Write one-page report
Spanish Geography		
Iberia Overseas: Pioneers in the Age of European Expansion	Casa del Cordón	
Latin American Civilization and Culture		
Spanish literature (up to the 18th Century)	Biblioteca Pública de Burgos	
Politics in Spain		
Spanish literature (19th Century to present) Spanish Economy		
The Spanish Republic and Civil War	Palacio de la Isla	Write one-page report
Castles, Cathedrals, and Spanish Architecture	Toledo	
Contemporary Spanish Art	Prada Museum Madrid	
FINAL PROJECT		Pick one topic covered in class to research. Write a 3-page paper and prepare a 10 minute presentation as group or individually

*Please note that this schedule of topics is approximate and is likely to change. Additional readings may also be assigned.

FIELD TRIPS:

Throughout the course, students will participate in the following academic activities. Note that some activities may change.

1. Historical and cultural areas of Burgos:
 - Historic center of Burgos

- Palacio de la Isla
 - Biblioteca Pública de Burgos
 - Museum of Human Evolution
 - Casa del Cordón
 - Catedral de Burgos
3. Monastery of ‘Santa María la Real de las Huelgas’
 4. Castle of Burgos
 5. Spanish gastronomy, Tapa tasting
 6. Street shows
 7. Day trip to Bilbao and San Sebastian
 8. A three-day trip to Madrid and Toledo

Each excursion or activity will have a small assignment associated with the activity/excursion. This assignment must be discussed during class and assessed as part of the final grade for the Spanish Culture & Society program.

ASSESSMENT:

Final Project: 50%

Oral Presentation: 20%

Activity Reports: 20%

Class Participation: 10%

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis with the authorization of the professor. If students miss class due to illness or injury, a doctor’s note must be provided.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Collection of reading materials presented by the teacher.