INTRODUCTION TO SPAIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

• The course will provide a broad overview of Spanish civilization and culture, from its prehistory to the present day.

• Spain’s significance in the history of thought and deed will be examined in wider international contexts, particularly those pertaining to Western Europe and the Americas.

• Students will survey Spanish culture in its many diverse representations, examining cultural expressions in terms of their perceived universality and authenticity.

• Topics will be linked to questions of politico-cultural identity in contemporary Spain.

**Essential Reading***

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Text</th>
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* Other material, including online material, will be provided, and further reading (see below) will be necessary to complete the course. However, it is essential that students purchase the above texts as soon as possible. They are available in electronic formats.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish Culture: An Introduction</td>
<td><em>CC “Modern Spanish Culture: An Introduction”</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Civilization and its Discontents</td>
<td><em>CC “What does it mean to study modern Spanish Culture?”</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Humans and Humanities: Cave Dwellers and Cave Art in Prehistoric Spain</td>
<td><em>SAH ‘Prehistoric and Roman Spain’</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
|      | The Light in the Dark: the “Three Cultures” in the Middle Ages | *SAH ‘The Early Middle Ages, 700-1250’*  
*SAH ‘The Late Middle Ages, 1250-1500’* |
|      | The Age of Empire I: The Spider of El Escorial | *SAH‘Vicissitudes of a World Power, 1500-1770’* |
|      | The Age of Empire II: from Alcalá to Everywhere | *SAH ‘The Improbable Empire’* |
*SAH, passim* |
|      | Ad maiorem Dei gloriam: The Jesuits | *SAH ‘Flow and Ebb: 1700-1833’* |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The Spanish Holocaust: the Civil War and its Repercussions | SAH ‘Liberalism and Reaction, 1833-1931’  
CC ‘History, Politics and Culture, 1875-Present’  
SAH ‘Spain from 1931 to the Present’ |
| ‘Miss Canary Islands’: Generalísimo Francisco Franco | CC ‘History, Politics and Culture, 1936-1975’  
NS ‘Legacies, Memories and Phantoms’ |
| *Tierra y Libertad* | Philip French ‘For whom the bell continues to toll’  
*The Observer, 1st October 1995*  
[available online]  
Philip French ‘Idealism and illusions’,  
*The Observer, 8th October 1995*  
[available online] |
| Mid-Term Exams | Revision of Previous Material |
| All Spaniards are More Equal than Others: Orwell in Spain | George Orwell: ‘Spilling the Spanish Beans’ [Online Text] |
| Culture Clashes I: The Basques *et al* | NS ‘The Basques’  
CC ‘The Basque Country’ |
| Culture Clashes II: Catalonia and Galicia | CC ‘A Cultural Mapping of Catalonia’  
NS ‘The Catalans’ and ‘The Galicians’ |
| The Power of Art: Picasso | CC ‘Painting and Sculpture in Modern Spain’  
NS ‘A Cultural Revolution’ |
| The Power of Literature: Cervantes | *Don Quixote*  
*(First Part of the Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha)*, Chapters I-V |
| *El Quijote on Film: GrigoriKozintsev’s ДонКихот* | BosleyCrowther, ‘Don Quixote (1957),’ *New York Times*,  
January 21st 1961 [available online] |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source/Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical Alcalá: A Walking Tour</td>
<td>‘University and Historic Precinct of Alcalá de Henares’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Presentations I</td>
<td>Independent Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Presentations II</td>
<td>Independent Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Intangible Heritage: Flamenco</td>
<td>CC ‘Spanish Music and Cultural Identity’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex and the Single Spaniard: Sex and Sexualities in Contemporary Spain</td>
<td>NS ‘Men and Women: Machismo Meltdown’</td>
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<td>NS ‘Sex: from Francoist Prudery to Gay Marriage’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guiri! Travelers in Spain</td>
<td>Independent Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>Revision of Previous Material</td>
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of Spanish culture and civilization through readings, lectures, seminars and cultural activities. ‘Spanish culture and civilization’ is taken to denote developments in the arts, philosophy, politics, economics, media, entertainment and gastronomy in various non-Portuguese regions of the Iberian peninsula from the arrival of the first hominids to the present day. Students will develop a consistent and coherent knowledge of the region’s history in order to examine and critically evaluate these developments. Ideas, behaviours and traditions will be analysed in order to understand cultural patterns within Spain and cultural interactions without, particularly in regard to the rest of Western Europe and the Americas.

The course combines lectures and seminars. No knowledge of Spanish is assumed, and sessions will be conducted in English. The instructor may gradually introduce vocabulary and expressions in Spanish where translation fails to convey appropriate cultural or semantic import. Students will be encouraged to take the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of Spanish culture through participation in a variety of cultural activities. The course will develop self-directed learning, critical analysis and independent research skills.

The course will focus on the development of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence 1</th>
<th>Knowledge and understanding of Spanish culture and civilization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Competence 2</td>
<td>Awareness and appreciation of historical and cultural sensitivities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competence 3</td>
<td>Comprehension of Spanish history within wider international contexts</td>
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<td>Competence 4</td>
<td>Analyses of cultural interactions between American and Spanish societies</td>
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<td>Competence 5</td>
<td>Personal and interpersonal skills, such as observation, debate, critical analysis and self-directed research</td>
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ATTENDANCE

Attendance is compulsory. If a student is absent for more than the allotted quota (two classes), their final grade will be lowered by 10% for each further absence not authorized by a medical doctor or the program director. Only two absences will be accepted with no justification. Absences will not be justified by family visits, personal trips or illnesses without a medical note.

Students may not be allowed to participate in a class or visit if they arrive ten minutes, or more than ten minutes, late. If a student is continuously late, they will be penalized with a “half absence” and/or exclusion from a class or visit.

Attendance in a class or a visit does not immediately provide the student with course credit. Active participation and written assignments are also required.
### EVALUATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Mid-term exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Final Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

**Students must participate actively in class.**
- Students are expected to ask questions and present their ideas based on their reading and observations.
- There will be debates on different subjects covered in class.
- Students must pay attention to contemporary developments relevant to the course content.

Class participation will be graded according to:
- Demonstration of the fulfillment of reading requirements;
- Demonstration of independent thought and critical analysis;
- Demonstration of preparation for class visits;
- Participation in class debates; and
- The posing of insightful and relevant questions.

**HOMEWORK: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

- Students must submit written reports of selected readings, lectures or visits.
- Assignments must demonstrate independent thought and original critical analyses.
- Assignments must be submitted in hard copy, double-spaced, using Times New Roman or Arial fonts (size 12), with the work not to exceed three pages in length.
- Any précis of reading materials will not be accepted.
- Overly long, electronic or handwritten work will not be accepted.
- Plagiarized work, or partly plagiarized work, will result in **automatic failure**.
- Further details of specific assignments will be provided in class by the instructor.

**NB: Mid-term exams will be held on TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY and final exams on TUESDAY 29TH APRIL.** Further details will be provided in class.
READING LIST

Required Reading:

Selected chapters from:


Recommended Reading:


Further Reading:


Liss, Peggy K. *Isabel the Queen*. Oxford and New York, 1992.


