CIEE Seville, Spain

Course title: Cultural History of Spain
Course code: HISP 3502 CSCS
Programs offering course: Communications, New Media and Journalism
Spanish, Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The purpose of this class is to help the student understand the historical evolution of Spain. In a series of lecture classes and field trips we will analyse the complex chronology of the history of Spain and explore the most important moments in that history. Our starting point will be the origins of our culture from the Roman and Visigoth times, to cross the age of the three monotheistic cultures in Middle Ages. We will continue by analyzing the splendor of Renaissance and the baroque crisis, to delve into the contemporary age and the great changes in society and culture to the present times. At first glance it may be overly ambitious, but this course aims to offer a panoramic idea of the social, historical and cultural evolution of the main stages of our civilization through its main artistic manifestations. Visiting emblematic places of each cultural period daily, this class will entail an "intensive training" in the knowledge of the Spanish identity.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

This course aims to put the student in contact with the history of Spain, addressing its main chronological stages and thus providing an idea of the whole. Through a series of theoretical-practical sessions, students will be introduced to the most determining periods of our historical evolution by visiting the places where they occurred, as well as accessing texts and documents that will complement their learning. The objective
of this subject is to offer the student a global view of the fundamental facts that have shaped the development of politics, society, the arts and ultimately the culture in our country.

Course Prerequisites

4 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent). Students need to have a GPA of at least 2.5. Students’ language level, as evidenced by their result on the Online Language Placement Test, will determine their participation in this or other Intensive Session course.

Methods of Instruction

The classes will be divided in the following manner. We will meet for several hours each week in the classroom. Here, we will examine the historical moments and chronologies by looking at texts, documents, slides, audiovisual aids, etc. The other class hours will be dedicated to the practical aspect of studying the history of Spain. This will be achieved by visiting historical places in Seville. Attendance and behavior during these visits will be evaluated with the same weight as attendance in the classroom.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to act in accordance with their university and CIEE´s standards of conduct concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

Linguistic Resource Center

It is recommended that students use the writing center.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Short Essay
2. Midterm Exam
3. Final Exam
4. Final Project
5. Participation in Class

TOTAL

15%
25%
25%
20%
15%
100%
Course Requirements

Short Essay

At the beginning of the course the student must present a summary of one of the first topics in the textbook that the teacher will indicate on the first day of class. It should consist of approximately 1500 words using 12-point font double spaced. The grammar of this summary will also influence the grade of this class work.

Midterm Exam

The partial examination will consist of five projected images (monuments, works of art, maps or other documents), with two questions each. The historical-artistic identification and its relationship with the stage and social, political or religious circumstances will be the main objectives of these questions. The average length of each answer be approximately two paragraphs (approximately 200 words). Each question will be worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points.

Final Exam

The final exam will be divided into two parts (50 points each, a total of 100 points). The first part will consist of five questions about five images studied in class (related to the second half of the course), with a total value of 10 points each.

The second part will consist of two essay questions related to all the subjects studied from the beginning of the course. Students will choose one question to answer (approximately 1000 words). This question will be worth 50 points of the final score of the exam.

Final Project

The student must submit an essay in the form of a journal analysing the places we visit from the historical-artistic point of view. It is recommended to comment on a minimum of four monuments / works of art and a maximum of six.

The length of this essay will be approximately 5000 words (between 5 and 6 double-spaced pages) and with the font size number 12 and must be published on the Canvas page on the day indicated in the syllabus. Grammar will be evaluated as
well as content, placing special emphasis on the critical and analytical aspects of the essay.

Participation in Class

Attendance and punctuality will be the main aspect assessed in the student's participation grade. Besides this, the involvement (questions, comments ...) in the classroom or in the frequent activities outside class will be taken into consideration for the calculation of the final grade.

Attendance

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind. If a student misses class once without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 10 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 3 or more absences will fail the course.

Students should arrive to class on-time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor's note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.

* Notes from a physician will only be valid and admitted by the Program Manager if the doctor confirms that the visit could not have been arranged at another time, or that the student was too ill to attend class that day.

Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class  
Ancient and Medieval History

   1. Visit to the remains on calle Marmoles
   2. Reading: Lesson 1
   1. Visit the Archaeological Museum
   2. Reading: p. Lesson 2
   1. Tour through the walls of Seville and Salvador Mosque
   2. Reading: p. Lesson 3
4. Muslim inheritance and the legacy of Al-Andalus. Spain in the time of the Catholic kings, Ferdinand and Isabel.
   1. Visit to Barrio de Santa Cruz and old Jewish quarter I
   2. Reading: p. Lessons 4 and 5
   1. Visit to the Archive of the Indies
   2. Reading: Lesson 6

Midterm review

Mid-term Exam

Week 2

Class  
Modern and Contemporary History

1. Splendour and crisis in Baroque Seville. Spanish art in between the XVII and XVIII centuries.
   1. Visit the Church of El Salvador
   2. Reading: p. Lesson 7
2. Period of the Enlightenment. Changes in the mentality and the culture
   1. Visit to the Fine Arts Museum
   2. Reading: Lesson 8
   1. Walk around El Arenal and the Plaza de Toros
   2. Reading: p. Lesson 9

4. Principal transformations of the XX Century. From Franco to democracy.
   1. Visit to the Expo of 1929 (Plaza de España)
   2. Reading: p. Lesson 10
   3. Final review

Final Exam and canvas publication of the Journal of Visits (Final Project)

Course Materials
Readings

Textbook:
