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: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

The purpose of this class is to help students 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 Roman and Visigothic times, to reach the age of the three monotheistic cultures during the Middle Ages. We will continue by analyzing the splendor of the Renaissance and the subsequent baroque crisis, to delve into the contemporary age and the great changes that took place in the Spanish 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. By visiting emblematic places of each cultural period on a daily basis, this class will provide an "intensive training" into the knowledge of the Spanish identity.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Analyze the history of Spain, addressing its main chronological stages and thus gathering an idea of the whole.
- Discern the difference between artistic styles and connect them with their respective historical moments.
- Integrate practical knowledge with the critical insights provided by texts that refer to the different historical moments discussed in the class.
- Acquire a global view of the fundamental facts that have shaped the development of politics, society, the arts and ultimately the culture of Spain.

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.

Linguistic Resource Center

It is recommended that students use the writing center.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Short Essay 15%
2. Midterm Exam 25%
3. Final Exam 25%
4. Final Project 20%
**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.

**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.
N.B. 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
   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
