



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS
"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

Course	SPANISH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION
Program	JANUARY PROGRAM
Credits ECTS	3 USA
Class hours	45
Tutorials	By appointment
Requirements	Intermediate Spanish level
Language	Spanish
Type of teaching	Online and in person

COURSE PRESENTATION

This course is essential for the student interested in understanding the reality of contemporary Spain forged by its historical evolution. Emphasis will be placed on the comprehension of the most transcendental events to understand their socio-cultural consequences through which the idiosyncrasy of the Spanish people was formed. In this course, students will expand their observation skills to understand the melting pot of cultures, traditions and languages that make up today's Spain. It is intended that the student comes into direct contact with the historical legacy through visits to monuments, museums, exhibitions and cities declared World Heritage by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in order to learn to value, respect and conserve the material heritage of humanity. In the professional field, this subject is preferably developed in the following areas:

- Research and teaching. This class is fundamental for designing educational projects related to the teaching of Spanish as a second language. In addition, it orients the student towards sectors that imply a good knowledge of the Spanish language. These include linguistic and literary planning and counseling, media management and counseling, international relations, tourism, and cultural management, among others.
- Conservation and dissemination of Spanish historical and cultural heritage (preparation of technical reports, curatorship of exhibitions, direction and management of museums).

- Protection and management of historical-artistic heritage (museum curators or restoration projects).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will analyze the most relevant characteristics that define Spanish culture and civilization from its origins to the present. Knowledge of the past is essential to understand the social, political, artistic, religious, ethnographic, anthropological and economic coordinates that shape the Spain of today.

On the other hand, the aim is to study the clichés anchored in the past that give an erroneous and distorted image of Spain. "Not everything is sun, beach and parties" The aim is to delve into the true essence and identity of the Spanish people in order to understand their differences through the cultural manifestations that have been manifested throughout its history.

COMPETENCES

General Competences (GC):

CG1: To seek a rational and critical knowledge of the most significant historical events so that the student can understand the present and make it comprehensible to others.

CG2: The student in this class should correctly use the terminology of this discipline. Being an international student, the aim is to enrich their vision of reality, increase their capacity for analysis and understanding of the past in order to understand its consequences in the present.

CG3: To develop skills to communicate ideas and express themselves correctly orally and in writing, as well as to incorporate attitudes of openness, tolerance and respect towards other ideas and intellectual or vital positions.

CG4: Strengthen the ability of autonomous learning and teamwork.

Specific Competencies (SC):

SC1: Ability to organize, plan and develop autonomous learning.

SC2: Ability to apply theoretical knowledge and critical reasoning to the interpretation, analysis and commentary of texts and images.

SC3: Ability to communicate orally and in writing.

SC4: Ability to analyze, compare and synthesize the main characteristics of the political, social, economic, religious and cultural formations of Spanish society throughout the centuries.

SC5: Ability to situate, in space and time, relevant events for the History of Spain that have significantly marked the Spanish identity.

TEACHING-LEARNING METHODOLOGY

Theoretical and practical lessons will be given. The theory will be based on readings of articles and the class manual, the teacher's explanations through power point presentations, viewing of documentaries, films or photographs. The practical part of the course includes cultural visits to monuments and cities declared World Heritage Sites. Finally, the course will have short tests and a final exam to evaluate the competences of the course. The methodology aims to work both on the theoretical contents and the communicative skills and abilities of the students with the objective of acquiring the aforementioned competences.

CLASS PREPARATION

For the best performance of the course, the student must be prepared in class, having done the assigned readings and/or the exercises that the teacher designates as course assignments. The work at home is very important since it will allow the student to anticipate the class. It will basically involve reading articles or topics from the textbook and doing the comprehension exercises. This task is key to follow the rhythm of the class, since it will facilitate the comprehension of what has been learned. With this way of working, it is intended that the student comes to class familiar with certain vocabulary related to concepts of Spanish identity, civilization and culture.

EVALUATION SYSTEM

The course will be evaluated trying to combine different evaluation systems, so that all students can develop their abilities. The student's continuous work will be the guiding criterion of the evaluation system. Consequently, the global evaluation will be based on the participation of the students in the theoretical and practical sessions; the completion of exercises, assignments and written tests; the participation in the course activities. The percentage of the grade assigned to each of the course sections will be as follows:

- **Participation**

It must be active, that is to say, the student must not only ask his doubts, but must also make comments and actively participate in the exercises proposed in class both in group and individually. In addition, the student must read the texts assigned by the teacher and do the exercises related to the text. The student is expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibility in the classroom so that gestures, passive attitude such as sleeping in class, and having inappropriate behaviors in class may have a negative impact on the grade of this section. In this section we will work on competencies 1, 2 and 3. Participation has a percentage of 10%.

- **Complementary activities outside the classroom.**

These activities consist of visiting museums, cities and monuments declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Some examples could be the visit to Aranjuez and Chinchón, the Prado Museum or the Reina Sofía Museum. The total percentage of this section is 10%.

- **Online activities.**

An important part of the course consists of online classes. The student must follow the teacher's instructions to do the assignments, readings and quizzes necessary to pass this part of the course. The percentage of this section is 30%.

- **Written essay.**

After watching the film Carmen (Vicente Aranda, 2003), the student will do a reflection paper about the cultural stereotypes of Spain that are observed in the film and the difference and/or approximation to stereotypes in the United States. This section will be focused to work on competencies 3, 4, 5 and 6 having as objectives the following sections:

- Introduction: The student will make an introductory section in which he/she will expose the questions that have led him/her to take interest in the topic in question. (What, how, where and why) and will state the thesis that will be the vehicle for their work from now on.

- **Development:** The student will then demonstrate the thesis defended about the chosen topic through argumentative elements that serve to demonstrate their ability to analyze and understand the concepts by extracting arguments from different sources to complete, contrast or strengthen the thesis defended.
- **Conclusion:** The student will have to dedicate a final section to resume in a synthetic way the arguments argued for the defense of his main thesis and thus demonstrate his capacity for synthesis and conclusion.
- **Specific language:** The student will have to express his/her knowledge using a specific language that he/she will have to acquire through the readings and explanations given by the professor. The total percentage of this section is 10%.

Note: If the work is not handed in on the indicated date, the student will receive one point less for each day of delay. Common text for all subjects.

Plagiarism: Research papers must expose students' own ideas. The work of other writers or experts used to support students' ideas must be properly cited. Inappropriate use of another person's text or work is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of academic standards and may result in failure of the paper or even the subject for which the paper was written. In extreme cases it may result in expulsion from the program. Guidelines for writing the paper properly should be provided by the professor.

● **Exams.**

Short tests will be given to assess the student's progressive learning and a final cumulative exam. To guarantee a good result in these tests the student is recommended to do the homework, take notes of the teacher's explanations, make summaries with the most important information of each class to achieve the competencies of the course. The final exam will be cumulative and the student will have to answer two blocks of questions. The first block will be a multiple-choice test, while the second block will consist of essay questions. The total percentage of this section is 30%.

If the professor detects copying or plagiarism in the exam, the student will receive a grade of zero and will not have the option of any type of recovery.

The professor reserves the right to give "surprise exams" when he/she deems it appropriate. They will be valued as an additional grade for homework.

GRADE BALANCE

The class grade scale will be as follows:

PARTICIPATION	10%
FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES	10%
ASSINGMENTS AND TASKS	10%
ONLINE ACTIVITIES	30%
WRITTEN ESSAY	10%
FINAL EXAM	30%

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with special needs can contact Antonio Fernández: antonio.fernandezm@uah.es Instituto Franklin-UAH has the necessary measures in place to help those students who demonstrate, by means of a medical certificate, that they have special needs.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Technology in the classroom is essential today. However, if used inappropriately, it can be detrimental to student learning. For example, checking email, chatting with other users, surfing the web for purposes other than class content, etc... Misuse of these tools can also distract other classmates, so only taking notes on the computer is allowed. For any other use, permission must be requested from the teacher.

ASSISTANCE

Class attendance is MANDATORY. If the student is absent more than the allowed limit (1 absence), his/her final grade will be reduced by 10 points for each absence that has not been excused by a doctor's note or by his/her Program Director/Tutor. It will be the student's responsibility to individually prepare the material taught in class on the days he/she is absent.

USE OF THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

In this course there will be a virtual part and a face-to-face part. The virtual classes will be done through the Blackboard platform. The student will be able to access the readings or other materials on this platform. The professor will determine when the synchronous classes, meetings and discussion forums will take place. Attendance in both the virtual and face-to-face parts of the course is also compulsory.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

	SUBJECT OF STUDY	
	Introduction. Pre-Roman Iberia. Rome	
	Visigoths. Al-Andalus. Christian Kingdoms	
	Catholic Monarchs. Hapsburgs. Enlightenment. America	
	XIX Century. Regions. Languages	
	Twentieth century. Climate. Organization of Spain	
	Bullfighting and other traditions. Gastronomy	
	Religion. Immigration. Great monuments	
	Parties and events. Christmas. Easter.	
	Educational System. Economic crisis	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

García de Cortázar, Fernando & González Vesga, J.M., Breve Historia de España, Alianza, 2017 (nueva edición) –

Altamira y Crevea, Rafael, Historia de España y de la Civilización española, Editorial crítica, 2001 –

Valdeón, Julio et alii, Historia de España, Espasa, 2011

5 WEBGRAFÍA - Temas de historia de España:
<http://bachiller.sabuco.com/historia/hespana.htm>

<https://ricluengo.wordpress.com/2008/03/05/temario-de-historia-de-espana-2%c2%ba-bachillerato/>

Vídeos historia de España: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3BA7A73203133279>

<http://www.rtve.es/alcanta/videos/memoria-de-espana/>

WE SPEAK ONLY IN SPANISH

In the class we will only speak in Spanish. The use of English in the class would prevent the total immersion of the student in the Spanish learning process. In addition, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we ask you to make an additional effort to adapt terminology with the sole purpose of familiarizing yourself with the characteristic languages of the subject. For a better understanding of the class we recommend a high level of Spanish.

Note: The programmed activities may be altered as the institutions to be visited reserve the right to change dates or times according to their agenda or possible administrative eventualities.

This program is subject to change. The final class program will be delivered on the first day of the course.