

**Spanish 481**  
**SPANISH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION**  
**Section 1, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:45**  
**Section 2, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

Professor: Eduardo Gregori, Ph.D.

Office: CCC 411

Office Hours: T-R 3:30-4:30

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**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND GOALS**

This course provides an introduction to both the history of Spain and its social, political, and cultural circumstances. Spain has historically identified itself as “Las Españas.” The course will examine how this plurality has manifested itself through time via its regional nationalisms, ethnicities, religions, languages, and social structures. The class will articulate historical and contemporary connections between Spain and Europe, the United States and Latin America. It is expected that students will read the material before attending class, complete the homework, and come prepared to discuss the text and other materials provided by the instructor during class sessions.

A secondary goal of the course is to build a bridge between language and literature courses. To that end, the course emphasizes expanding your vocabulary and developing your reading and listening skills, so that you can more easily deal with abstract concepts and refine your ability to express complex ideas orally in Spanish.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will be able to:

- Discuss, identify, and reflect on the history, customs, values and other cultural aspects of Spain.
- Compare analytically the role of Christianity, Islam and Judaism in the development of Spanish culture.
- Analyze the various regional, linguistic, political, and immigrant cultures of Spain and their contributions to Spanish culture.
- Describe and analyze the perceptions, viewpoints, and life experiences of people in Spain. Compare and contrast cultural aspects (including morals, biases, social norms, and world views) of Spain with those of the United States.
- Contextualize current events and experiences in relation to the historical and current context between Spain and the U.S., including issues of race, gender, and equality.

- Demonstrate how local and global contexts of ideas or events result in nuanced understandings of contemporary and/or historical ideas, events, or experiences.

## **REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

Text: Ugarte, Francisco; Michael Ugarte and Kathleen McNerney. *España y su civilización*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2009 (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

Evaluation: Two midterms: 50% (25% each); Class discussions and participation (25%); Final Exam: 25%;

Exams: There will be two midterms and one final exam. The midterms will cover assigned readings, class lectures and discussions. The final will be comprehensive. Expect both short, identifying questions and long, essay-type questions.

Class discussion/Preparation for Class: The class discussion and participation grade is based on the quality and extent of your daily participation, on the degree of your preparedness, and on your demonstrated effort to communicate effectively in Spanish. All students are expected to participate fully in discussions. To prepare for class, read the assigned chapter in the textbook, or equivalent, and answer all of the questions that follow the readings under *Preguntas*. For each chapter you will also answer one *Tema de investigación y conversación*. You will need to answer both the *investigación* and *conversación* portions of the homework in order to ensure that meaningful and thoughtful conversations take place in class when discussing these questions. To do well on the exams and on your participation grade, it is wise to take notes on all class content, and to participate in class discussions.

Attendance: Since the nature of this course demands active participation in daily class activities, attendance is mandatory. Up to three unexcused absences are allowed. Each unexcused absence thereafter will reduce your course grade by 1%. Six unexcused absences automatically fails you in the course. Excused absences are those for which you present a written medical excuse that states the time and date that you were in the doctor's office or certification that you are officially participating in an event sponsored by UWSP. You must present documentation of your excused absence within 2 days of your return to class. Only excused absences will allow you to retake an exam, or to turn in late assignments. Should an absence be necessary, it is your responsibility to check the announcements in D2L for any additional assignments or changes in the syllabus, and to contact other students to learn what material you missed.

## GRADE SCALE

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	Below 70	Below 60

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DAY	IN CLASS	
1/29	Introduction. Spain as Crossroads between Europe and Africa. Regional Nationalism, Languages, Peoples. Myths/realities of Spain. Geography and Destiny.	
1/31	Spain as Crossroads between Europe and Africa, cont. Maps.	
2/5	Early history. Impact of Early Settlers and Invaders (Phoenicians, Greeks, Celts).	
2/7	Romanization of the Peninsula	
2/12	Middle Ages. Unification of Spain under the Visigoths. Arab Invasion.	
2/14	Middle Ages. Arab Contributions.	
2/19	Confluence of Three Cultures: Christian, Muslim, Hebrew.	
2/21		

	Jews in Medieval Spain. "Sepharad". Reconquest.	
2/26	<b>Review for Exam 1 (with Professor Anna Runnion)</b>	
2/28	<b>Review for Exam 1 (with Professor Anna Runnion)</b>	
3/5	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
3/7	Unification of Spain. Catholic Kings. Europe.	
3/12	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Building of an Empire. Expansion of Spain in the Americas and Africa.	
3/14	Golden Age in Arts/Europe	
3/26	The Spain of the Bourbons: 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Illustration. Napoleonic Invasion.	
3/28	19 <sup>th</sup> c. Loss of American Colonies. Generation of 98. Social Crisis.	
4/2	<b>NO CLASS THIS WEEK: UWSP/WLL International Trip Absence</b>	
4/4		
4/9	International Labor Movement. Social/Political Crises and II Spanish Republic/Europe and the USA.	

4/11	Spanish Civil War and International Involvement	
4/16	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
4/18	Civil War Aftermath. Franquismo and the International Shunning of Spain.	
4/23	Transition to a Democratic Society for all (issues of gender, sexuality, languages, religions). Integration in the European Union.	
4/25	Society in Transition. Social Class. European Model of "Welfare State"	
4/30	Political/Social Structures and Cultural Institutions	
5/2	Nationalism and Separatism in the Context of European Regionalist Movements. Basque Country-ethnicities.	
5/7	Nationalism and Separatism in the Context of European Regionalist Movements. Catalanism.	
5/9	Immigration & Assimilation.	

**FINAL EXAM: Section 1 [12:30-1:45] 16 May [12:30-2:30]  
Section 2 [2:00-3:15] 14 May [12:30-2:30]**