

## **TITLE: CONTEMPORARY SPANISH SOCIETY - SPAN 350**

LANGUAGE: English

TOTAL HOURS: 45 hours

CREDITS: 3 credits

### **DESCRIPTION**

Why are Spaniards currently exhuming mass graves of the Civil War? How can the country tolerate an unemployment rate of 20 percent? Why has Catalan and Basque nationalism dominated politics for decades? Why does a country with a historic reputation for machismo boast such progressive laws on gender and gay marriages? Why does political corruption remain so prevalent? This course examines political and social issues relevant to Spaniards today. It begins by discussing recent history in order to contextualize the major themes of the past few decades. It then moves to those subjects that emerged out of the transition to democracy – regionalism, terrorism, and linguistic pluralism – and still account for many of the peculiarities of Spanish politics. The second half of the course analyzes “Spain’s Second Transition” under José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero by focusing on immigration, Islamic fundamentalism, foreign policy, gender and family relations, historical memory, political corruption, and the economic crisis. The course is multi-disciplinary, consisting of a mixture of readings from political science, history, and cultural studies. Each session will consist of a lecture and a class discussion.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will use a combination of guided lectures, classroom interaction, student presentations and tours of the city.

### **EVALUATION**

Attendance to classes and field trips is mandatory; poor attendance will affect the final grade of the student as well as the everyday participation grade.

The final grade consists of four different parts: class participation, a midterm written exam, a final written exam, and a final project. The breakdown of grades is made up as follows:

Class participation	10%
Midterm written exam	30%
Final written exam	30%
Final Project	30%

**Class participation:** Active class participation includes coming to class prepared, having read the material for that day, answering questions from the professor, asking questions and engaging in group activities. Students are encouraged to express their opinions in class with the professor and the other students.

**Final project:** Students will individually complete a project with an oral presentation and written paper chosen by the students but approved by the professor. More specific instructions on the final project will be discussed on the first day of class.

**Exams:** Both the midterm and the final exams may contain a mix of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions aimed to test the students' full comprehension of facts and the ability to argue his/her opinions based on class material.

The guidelines for exams are as follows-

- Any student found cheating will automatically fail this examination. Additional sanctions may be imposed.
- Talking or communicating with other students during the examination is forbidden.
- Desks must be cleared of all books, notes and papers. All unauthorized materials must be put away and remain out of sight throughout the examination.
- All telephones and electronic devices must be turned completely off during the exam.
- Students arriving later than 15 minutes will not be allowed into the classroom to take the examination, subject to the decision of the instructor.
- At the end of the examination students will remain seated until their papers are collected. No one may leave the room until excused.
- Should assistance be required, students will attract the attention of the instructor.
- Failure to follow these rules will automatically lead to failure of this examination.

## **FIELD STUDIES**

Each course will include a minimum of 2 field studies. These field studies will be directly related to the course work, and may include visits to monuments, companies, government buildings, or museums. A potential field study includes a walking tour of the Civil War sites.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

SIS programs foster critical thinking and intellectual development of its students. In doing so, SIS requires that students introduce their original thoughts, opinions, and ideas in all of their assignments with the support of cited sources. Any violations of academic integrity, such as cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, academic misconduct, fabrication, misuse or misrepresentation of research, and noncompliance, may result in an automatic F or immediate dismissal from the program if the student falls below the minimum number of credits required for the term; 12 credits during the semester, or 3 hours during the summer.

**Cheating:** Any action that violates the rules and guidelines given by the instructor for submitting assignments or exams.

**Plagiarism:** Any action that presents the ideas, opinions, research, etc. of another as your own.

- Directly copying another's work without citing sources
- Submitting another person's work into your own without properly citing the source(s) used.
- Paraphrasing another person's work without providing appropriate citations

**Self-plagiarism:** Submitting a piece of one's own work to receive credit for multiple assignments in one or more class.

**Academic Misconduct:** Any act that impedes or threatens the open exchange, expression, or flow of information or fair evaluation of students. This includes intimidation and complicity in any acts or attempts to interfere with the ethical and fair submission and evaluation of student work.

**Fabrication:** Providing inaccurate or false information, including research findings, quotes, and cited sources, etc.

**Non-compliance:** Failure to comply with the values, objectives, and procedures contained in this policy.

As SIS is accredited by Jacksonville University, students are held accountable to JU's [Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct](#) . You are expected to read and understand the JU terms and regulations of Academic Misconduct.

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PyZmN0EAH1o4bKVZdxVyKw-wdiwXewx/view>)

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Semester:** Students are allowed THREE absences throughout the semester without penalty. Starting with the fourth absence, the student's FINAL GRADE will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

**Summer:** Students are allowed TWO absences throughout the summer without penalty. Starting with the third absence, the student's FINAL GRADE will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

*\*January Term students are allowed TWO absences as well.*

There are NO excused absences. If a student misses class because s/he is sick, that counts as one of the allowed absences. No excused absences and no excuses.

Quizzes, exams and participation points that are missed because of an absence cannot be recuperated.

Students that arrive late 5 minutes or more will receive a 0 for participation for the day.

## Course Content:

Session	Content
1	Introduction to the Course: Overview of syllabus, course objectives, and learning expectations
2	Background to the course: The origins of the Franco dictatorship and its evolution from autarky to consumer society
3	Characteristics of the Regime during late Francoism (1968- 75): Plans, options, and



	possibilities for continuity or disintegration
<b>4</b>	The death of Franco and the coronation of Juan Carlos de Borbón
<b>5</b>	Overview of the main actors of the transition: Juan Carlos I, Adolfo
<b>6</b>	The First Democratic Elections and the victory of the Unión de Centro Democrático (UCD)
<b>7</b>	Overview of chief parties in democratic Spain: UCD, PSOE (Socialists), AP (Alianza Popular), PCE (Communist)
<b>8</b>	The Constitution of 1978 + “pacts” of the Spanish transition to Democracy The accords with the Communists and nationalists The Moncloa Pacts, the Amnesty Law
<b>9</b>	The territorial distribution of power since 1978; The state of autonomies
<b>10</b>	Problems during the Transition: The Oil Crisis of the 1970s + economic downturn; ETA; The Army and 23-F
<b>11</b>	The Ascension of the Socialist Party: The elections of 1979; the elections of 1982; Felipe González and the modernization of Spain
<b>12</b>	Spanish society and culture in the 1980s: Women in the workplace, the changing role of religion, La Movida and El Destape New music and new cinema
<b>13</b>	Spain in the International Arena Historical Relationship between Spain and the United States (United States Bases in Spain) Entrance into European Community and NATO
<b>14</b>	Problems with the Socialist Party: ETA and the GAL; Political corruption
<b>15</b>	The Hegemony of the Popular Party: Victory in Elections in the elections of 96 and 2000; European Integration
<b>16</b>	Peripheral Nationalisms Catalan and Basque cases Spain as an example of asymmetrical federalism
<b>17</b>	The challenges of globalization: Immigration, Spain-Latin America relationships The War in Afghanistan and Iraq: Spain-USA relationship
<b>18</b>	The 11-M events The return of PSOE to power Catalonia from the transition to today (I) The Pujol years
<b>19</b>	Catalonia from the transition to today (II) The “tripartite” and the new Statute
<b>20</b>	The first term in office of Jose Luis Rodríguez-Zapatero Law for the Care of the Elderly and Disabled (“Dependency Law”) Law of Historical Memory Law of Gay Marriage
<b>21</b>	Current challenges of Spanish society I: Immigration Current challenges of Spanish society II: Work-life balance, the new family, domestic violence, the housing market
<b>22</b>	The political situations post-2011 elections The return of the PP to power The economic crisis Future prospects for Spanish Society

*\*Number of sessions vary depending on term.*

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Required readings:**

Stanley Black, Spain since 1939. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014-12-22  
(.pdfs will be provided).

### **Recommended readings:**

- Alvarez, Junco José (1996), "The Nation Building Process in Nineteenth-Century Spain," in Mar Molinero and Angel Smith, Nationalism and the Nation in the Iberian Peninsula, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp: 89-106.
- Balfour, S. (2005). "The reinvention of Spanish conservatism: the Popular Party since 1989" in "The Politics of Contemporary Spain" edited by Sebastian Balfour. Routledge: 146-169.
- Barton, S. (2004). A History of Spain. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Burns, J. 1998. Barça: a people's passion. London: Bloomfield.
- Dowling, A. (2005). "Convergència i Unió, Catalonia and the new Catalanism" in "The Politics of Contemporary Spain" edited by Sebastian Balfour. Routledge: 106-121.
- Freire, Espido. (2006) El Mileurista. Barcelona:Ariel.
- Goldie, Shabad "Language, nationalism and political conflict in Spain" in Comparative Politics, Vol. 14 No. 4 (Jul, 1982) 443-447.
- Hooper, J. (1995). "The New Spaniards" Penguin Books.
- Mata, J.M. (2005). "Terrorism and nationalist conflict: the weakness of democracy in the Basque Country" in "The Politics of Contemporary Spain" edited by Sebastian Balfour. Routledge: 81-106.
- Preston, Paul, (1981). ¡Comrades!. Planeta.
- Sven, David. (1998) "Family ties in Western Europe: Persistent Contrasts" in Population and Development review, 24(2): 203-234.