

COURSE: CONTEMPORARY SPAIN: GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS I

Language	Spanish
Minimum level of Spanish language required	From Intermediate
Hours of instruction	45 h
Credits	6 ECTS

Course description

The main aim of the course is to provide an overview of the physical and natural environment of Spain, and then to study its territory in relation to the social sphere and the economy, nationally and regionally. Firstly, we will analyse the country's physical and human geography. Secondly, Spain's current diversity will be explained through its natural regions and its autonomous communities; and the path to democracy through the process of democratic transition. Students will analyse the Spanish Constitution and current institutions, and find out about current Spanish society through some of the most representative aspects, such as: population, economy or culture.



Methodology

Each session will be comprised of a presentation made by the lecturer to introduce the topic, which will then be studied using maps, graphics and texts, which students will work on in groups actively in the same classroom, clarifying and resolving with the lecturer any questions about the material or topic.

The main aim is for the student to access as much information as possible and, at the end of the course, achieve the initial objectives, that is, better and deeper understanding of the geographic, social and institutional reality of Spain today.

Assessment system

Attendance and participation in class: 40%

Examination: 30%

Course work: 30%

Programme

- Geography
 - Introduction. The main geographic features of the Iberian Peninsula: its situation and configuration.
 - The relief of the Iberian Peninsula: its main structural and topographic units.
 - Climatic diversity in Iberian lands: temperatures, rains and winds.
 - Rivers, lakes and lagoons.
 - The main geological characteristics.
 - Climax vegetation.
 - The main natural parks and protected areas in Spain.

- Society and institutions
 - Spain today through sociocultural and economic diversity
 - The political transition to democracy
 - The Spanish Constitution: the state of the autonomous communities and institutions
 - Population and society

Bibliography

Geography

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BURGUEÑO, J. (2011): *La invención de las provincias*, Madrid, Los Libros de la Catarata.

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GIL OLCINA, A.- IVARS, J. A. (2004): *Planificación turística de los espacios regionales de España*, Madrid, Síntesis.

NADAL, J. (1991): *La población española*, Barcelona, Ariel.

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RABELLA, J. M. (1998): *Atlas de España y Portugal*, Barcelona, Península.

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VILA VALENTÍ, J. (1996): *La península Ibérica*, Barcelona, Ariel.



Society and institutions

FUSI, J.P. - PALAFOX, J. (1997): *España: 1808-1996. El desafío de la modernidad*, Madrid, Espasa-Calpe.

PICAZO, M. T. (1996): *Historia de España del siglo XX*, Barcelona, Crítica (Colección Nuevos Instrumentos Universitarios).

NAVARRO, V. (2006): *El subdesarrollo social de España*, Barcelona, Editorial Anagrama.

TREMLETT, G. (2006): *España ante sus fantasmas*, Madrid, Editorial Siglo XXI.