COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

History and Politics in Contemporary Spain

Terms: Autumn and Spring
Duration: 20 hours (10 lectures, 10 seminars)

Course Description

The aim of this module is to provide an overview of the history and politics of contemporary Spain. In terms of content, the module will introduce main issues in contemporary history and politics, significant cultural developments and the key moments in the transformation of Spain’s relations with other countries. The focus will be on developing an understanding of the main events, processes and ideas as they shape and influence contemporary Spain.

In addition to providing students with the necessary background knowledge to further their understanding of these topics, the module will also aim to equip them with the appropriate skills to write their project during the year abroad. The language medium will be Spanish and students will be trained in the vocabulary and type of discourse appropriate to the discussion of historical and socio-political topics. By the end of the course, students will have also learnt how to search for relevant up-to-date primary and secondary source materials, as well as to analyze such texts critically.

The course will require one 1-hour lecture/seminar per week, plus 1-hour private study. Assessment will consist of 50% coursework, which will comprise an in-class writing task in the first term and an oral presentation in the second term, and 50% end of course examination.

Students will be provided with a variety of up-to-date written and audio-visual materials for the relevant lecture or seminar in addition to the basic reading list which follows after the programme. It is essential that students refer to lecturer’s notes in preparation for each class and for revision.

Assessment

Based on:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class writing task</td>
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<td>Oral presentation</td>
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<td>Written examination</td>
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- 1 in-class writing task in the autumn term.
- 1 oral presentation at the beginning of the spring term.
- A two hour written exam at the end of the spring term.
Programme

Term 1:
1. The fall of the Monarchy in 1931 and the establishment of Spain’s 2nd Republic.
2. From democratic government to military rule after Franco’s coup d’état in July 1936.
4. 1975: Franco’s death and the enduring legacy of his rule. His successor: Juan Carlos I de Borbón as King of Spain.

Term 2
6. The Popular Party under José María Aznar in power from 1996 to 2003
7. PSOE’s return to government in March 2004
8. The Popular Party returned to power under Mariano Rajoy’s leadership in November 2011.
9. The long crisis at the start of the new century
10. 2016, the year of change?

Recommended reading


Casanova, Julián (2014) *España partida en dos: breve historia de la guerra civil española*. Crítica. Available as “Todo lo que debes saber sobre la guerra civil española” (YouTube)

http://www.juliancasanova.es


** Lalaguna, Juan (2013) *A Traveller’s History of Spain* (chapters 6, 7, and 8). The Armchair Traveler at the bookHaus.

** Students recommended to read before the start of the course where possible.