COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

Science and Technology in 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 development of science and technology in Spain. It should start with a preview of cultural advances in science and technology in Muslim Spain (al-Andalus) a thousand years ago, leading to a resurgence of medical studies, life sciences and engineering advances from the 15th to the 18th century.

The module will then proceed to an evaluation of late 19th and 20th century scientific and humanistic development, focusing on the fractures and continuities of mid-20th century. The language of communication will be Spanish and, wherever possible, we will endeavour to have Spanish-speaking lecturers as guests.

By the end of the course students will have acquired a clear understanding and knowledge of the various events, processes and ideas that have conditioned scientific and cultural developments in Spain leading up to the current situation.

The course will consist of one 1-hour lecture/seminar per week, plus 1-hour private study. Students will be provided with a variety of up-to-date written and audio-visual documentation in Spanish. A list of recommended reading material will also be provided; this is to be used for independent study and as preparation for lectures.

The lecturer will provide reading materials; it is essential that students refer to these in preparation for each lecture and for revision.

Assessment

Based on:

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<tr>
<th>In-class writing task</th>
<th>25%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written examination</td>
<td>50%</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. Nature and Science in al-Andalus (Muslim Iberia).
2. Natural Sciences, Medicine, Engineering. Exchanges between the Old and the New World.
3. Voyages of exploration, royal patronage and the foundation of academies in the 18th Century.
4. Cultural and technological decline in the 19th Century. The loss of Empire

Term 2

5. Scientific and Cultural revival in the early decades of the 20th Century.
6. The war years and the subsequent exile of science and culture.
7. Scientific and cultural renewal and expansion in the 1980s and 1990s.
8. The economic crisis of 2008 and its consequences upon research and development

Recommended Reading


