COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

History and Politics in Contemporary Spain

Terms: Autumn and Spring
Duration: 21 hours (10 lectures, 11 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 consists of one 1-hour lecture/seminar per week and requires at least one hour of private study per week. The assessment will consist of an in-class writing task in the first term, a project and a viva.

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

- In-class writing task at the end of term 1 - 25%
- 2300-word project to be submitted at the end of term 2 – 50%
- 30-minute viva at the end of term 2 – 25%

The course is moderated by an External Examiner. All marked work must be retained for resubmission at the end of the course.

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
9. 2017: is this the year of the Spanish Spring?

Recommended reading [reading lists available on Leganto]

Core:

** Casanova, Julián y Carlos Gil Andrés (2012) Breve Historia de España en el siglo XX. Ariel.


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

Supplementary:


Fontana, Josep (2013) El futuro es un país extraño. Una reflexión sobre la crisis social del siglo XXI. Ediciones de Pasado y Presente


Marín, José María, Carmen Molinero y Pere Ysáas Historia Política de España: 1939-2000 Vol.2, Akal

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