

# COURSE SYLLABUS

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## COURSE: IMAGINING SPAIN

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### COURSE DATA

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| Degree                       | European Track                                                                         |
| Academic Year                | 2025 -26                                                                               |
| Credits                      | 6                                                                                      |
| Course type                  | Elective                                                                               |
| Departament                  | Translation, Interpreting and Multilingual Communication]                              |
| Language of instruction      | English                                                                                |
| Name and email of instructor | Dr. Andrew Samuel Walsh <a href="mailto:aswalsh@comillas.edu">aswalsh@comillas.edu</a> |

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### SHORT DESCRIPTION

This course consists of a comparative and contrastive study of how Anglo-American writers from various cultures and eras have represented Spain in their texts. The writers whose work we will study include Richard Ford, George Borrow, Washington Irving, Ernest Hemingway, Langston Hughes, Martha Gellhorn, John Dos Passos, George Orwell, Gerald Brenan, Laurie Lee and other contemporary authors such as Michael Jacobs, Chris Stewart and Jason Webster. The overall aim is to familiarize students with the vast amount of literature that has been produced in English about Spain, its history and its culture. The expected outcome is that they will be able to produce their own critical work on this subject.

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## CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

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**TOPIC 1:** Identity and Imagination. Anglo-American Visions of Spain.

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**TOPIC 2:** Traveller's Tales and Romantic Visions of Spain - Richard Ford and his journey around Spain.

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**TOPIC 3:** The Anglo-American vision of Andalusia - Washington Irving and his *Tales of the Alhambra*

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**Topic 4:** The Spain of George Borrow and Gypsies.

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**TOPIC 5:** The literary legacy of bullfighting – Hemingway and Spain

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**TOPIC 6:** Holy Week in Spain – some traveller's experiences.

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**TOPIC 7:** The Spanish Civil War and English literature – visions of the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath

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**TOPIC 8:** Spain in the modern Anglo imagination - The fabled good life in the South.

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## METHODOLOGY

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- Presentations on each of the topics in the syllabus
  - Analysis and discussion of the topics presented in class
  - Each topic in the syllabus requires students to read the material set by the professor and be ready to discuss these texts in the online classes. The supplementary texts will be provided to students through the Moodle
  - Students will be expected to participate actively in the online discussion of the topics and texts included in the syllabus and their level of participation will be reflected in the final grade.
  - Students will be expected to prepare a group presentation (max. 15 minutes) on any topic related to the syllabus. The presentation must be made by groups of minimum 3 and maximum 4 students and uploaded previously to the course Moodle.
  - Online tutorials will be used for clearing up any doubts about the material discussed in class.
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## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

| Assessment type              | Assessment criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Percentage |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FINAL EXAM                   | 2-hour hand-written exam with four options for a short essay related to the topics covered.<br><br>The grade will depend on the coherence and originality of their answers and will also take into account the quality of the written expression in English        | 50         |
| GROUP PRESENTATION           | 15-minute presentation in groups of 3-4 students on a topic related to the subject.<br><br>The students will be graded based on the degree of preparation and the overall quality, originality and coherence of the presentation and its relevance to the subject. | 20         |
| WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT           | This will be in the form of a piece of original creative writing that could be a diary, a travelogue of their experiences in Spain or a study of a particular author or text related to the course. The assignment may also include sketches and pictures          | 20         |
| ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION | Regular attendance and participation in online classes.                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 10         |

- Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material, or **copying** in the exam or any other graded activity, **will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.**
- The **use of AI** to create complete works or relevant parts, without citing the source or the tool or without being expressly allowed in the description of the work, will be considered plagiarism and regulated according to the General Regulations of the University.
- To be able to take the final exam, students must not have missed **more than one third of the online classes without justification.** If this requirement is not met, the student may lose the right to be assessed.
- **The course requires a native or advanced level of English (C1).**

## STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)

| CONTACT HOURS | OUTSIDE CLASSROOM | OVERALL |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| 30            | 120               | 150     |



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## COMPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Spain in Mind. An Anthology.* (2007). New York: Vintage Books

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Brenan, G. (1963). *South from Granada.* Harmondsworth: Penguin

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Borrow, G. (1841). *The Zincali, an account of the Gypsies of Spain.* (Available free at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/565>)

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Ford, R. (1847) *A Handbook for Travellers in Spain.* (Available free at <https://archive.org/details/ahandbookfortra02fordgoog/page/n6>)

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Hemingway, E (1999) *For Whom the Bell Tolls.* Vintage Books, New York.

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Irving, W. (1832) *Tales of the Alhambra.* (Available free at <https://archive.org/details/talesfromalhambra00irvi/>)

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Lee, L. (1969). *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning.* Harmondsworth: Penguin

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Orwell, G. (2013). *A Homage to Catalonia.* Harmondsworth: Penguin.

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Stewart, C. (1999). *Driving Over Lemons. An Optimist in Spain.* London: Sort of Books.

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Ali, T. (1993). *Shadows of the Pomegranate Tree* London: Verso

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Burns Marañón, T. (2000). *Hispanomanía.* Barcelona: Plaza y Janés.

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Jacobs, M. (1994). *Beyond Hopes and Memories. A Spanish Journey.* London: Picador

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