



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

GUÍA DOCENTE

2025 - 2026

FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura

Nombre completo	Current International Issues from a Spanish Perspective
Código	E000010702
Nivel	Intercambio
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	6,0 ECTS
Carácter	Optativa
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Responsable	Almudena González del Valle Brena
Horario	Fall 2023: T 16-17,50; X 16.30-18-20; Spring 2024: to be determined
Horario de tutorías	Upon request by email to agvalle@comillas.edu - Tutorials can be individual or group, depending on the needs of the student.
Descriptor	Current International Issues from a Spanish Perspective will analyze international issues and dynamics that have had an impact on Spain and the world.

Datos del profesorado

Profesor

Nombre	Galyna Solovei
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Correo electrónico	gsolovei@comillas.edu

Profesor

Nombre	Jason Xidias Sheaff
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Despacho	By appointment, in person or Zoom. Please contact me via email stating your full availability for a meeting.
Correo electrónico	jxidias@comillas.edu

DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura

Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación

This course offers an in-depth exploration of contemporary international issues and dynamics from a Spanish perspective, examining the mutual influence between global events and Spain. Through a detailed analysis of Spain's international history and evolving foreign policy, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the country's role on the global stage.

Prerrequisitos



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Knowledge of European History, International Relations and Spanish Politics is desirable but not essential, as the course will include an introductory topic to the subject. To attend this course a level of C1 (advanced) English is required. Class attendance and participation are compulsory.

Competencias - Objetivos

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

MODULE 1: SPAIN AS A GLOBAL POWER

TOPIC 1: THE MUSLIM EXPERIENCE IN SPAIN AND THE BIRTH OF A MODERN STATE

TOPIC 2: NEW WORLDS AND HISPANIC GLOBALIZATION

TOPIC 3: THE END OF EMPIRE

TOPIC 4: THE LEGACY OF THE SPANISH EMPIRE

MODULE 2: SPAIN IN THE 20TH CENTURY

TOPIC 1: SPAIN AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

TOPIC 2: THE SPANISH SECOND REPUBLIC

TOPIC 3: THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

TOPIC 4: SPAIN AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

TOPIC 5: SPAIN AND THE COLD WAR

TOPIC 6: FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY

MODULE 3: SPAIN AND 21ST CENTURY GLOBAL CHALLENGES

TOPIC 1: SPAIN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE EU, UN, AND NATO

TOPIC 2: SPAIN AND CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL CHALLENGES

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

IN CLASSROOM: Theoretical background provided by the lecturer in class.

In class activities: answer short quizzes over required readings or as a take-away activity; case studies in groups, group or individual article analysis and preparation for policy paper writing about a specific topic explained in theoretical lessons; topic debates; group presentation of selected topics; individual presentation of policy papers. The specific guidelines will be explained in class along the sessions.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: the student will be required to read selected readings, or watch videos, or listen to podcasts, and be prepared for in-class short quizzes that will test this. Other activities will entail write individual policy papers and group assignments and an oral presentation in both cases.

Metodología Presencial: Actividades

1. Theoretical background provided by the lecturer in class.



2. In class activities: Case studies, article analysis and debates.

Metodología No presencial: Actividades

1. Required readings, summaries, essays and case studies.

2. Written and oral assignments preparation and submission, as well as group assignments.

RESUMEN HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)

Contact hours	outside classroom	OVERALL
60	90	150

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage
Final exam	In-depth knowledge and application of the course topics stated under Content and Structure above.	50%
Research Essay/ INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT	Please see specific guidelines: Prof. Xidias: the PDFs titled <i>Essay Requirements and Guidance</i> and <i>Essay Rubric</i> on Moodle. Deadlines and grading criteria are specified within these. Prof. González del Valle: Individual assignment guidelines	20%
Oral Presentation	Please see the <i>Oral Presentation Rubric</i> on Moodle. This contains the length and grading criteria for the assignment. The presentation date(s) will be announced at the beginning of the semester.	15%
Attendance and class participation	Attendance and active participation.	15%



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[AGdVB2] Aquí igual: el oral presentation será posiblemente en grupo, pero no lo tengo claro

[AGdVB3] Suelen ser bastantes, por lo que no da tiempo a que lo hagan todos en clase (al menos en mi experiencia) quizá de dos en dos o de tres en tres. ¿Cómo lo tienes tú planteado?

Calificaciones

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.

– At the beginning of the term the professor will announce the office hours for the course. Tutorials are an important part of the development of the course; students

may attend these within those office times, however they must be arranged in advance with the professor.

– To be able to take the final exam, students must not have missed more than one third of the classes without justification. If this requirement is not met, students will

lose the right to be assessed both in the ordinary and extraordinary periods (art. 93-1 of the General Regulations). Failure to attend the first hour of a two-hour lecture

means having missed the whole session in terms of attendance, regardless of whether or not the student is present the second hour.

– Students are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until the end of each session.

– AI USE REGULATIONS: Detection of illegal use of AI will carry a sanction (art.168.2.e, Reglamento General de la Universidad). In group assignments, the sanction will apply to all members of the team.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

Balfour, Sebastian (ed.) (2005) The Politics of Contemporary Spain, London and New York: Routledge.

Beneyto, José María and Pereira, Juan Carlos (dirs.) (2011) Política exterior española. Un balance de futuro, Madrid: Biblioteca Nueva (2 vols.).

Chislett, William (2013) Spain: What Everyone Needs to Know, New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Haass, Richard (2020) The World: A Brief Introduction, New York: Penguin Press.

Larres, K. & Wittlinger, R. (edit.) (2020) Understanding Global Politics, London and New York: Routledge.

Magone, José María (2017) Contemporary Spanish Politics, Third Edition, London and New York: Routledge.



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Martínez Montes, Luis Francisco (2018) Spain, a Global History, Madrid: Global Square Editorial.

Pereira, Juan Carlos (coord.) (2010) La política exterior de España. De 1800 hasta hoy, Barcelona: Ariel.

Radcliff, Pamela Beth (2017) Modern Spain. 1808 to the Present, Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

Tussell, Javier (2007) Spain, From Dictatorship to Democracy: 1939 to the present, Malden: Blackwell.

Bibliografía Complementaria

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