



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **CLASSICAL SPANISH ART**

COURSE DATA

Degree	Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges
Academic Year	2025-26
Credits	6
Course type	Elective
Departament	International Relations
Language of instruction	English
Name and email of instructor	Ana Trujillo Dennis ana.trujillo@comillas.edu

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Art is not only a cultural production but also a social and historical manifestation of culture. Learning about Spanish art also enhances our knowledge about the development of the history of Spain and the transformation of its society and culture throughout time.

This course is an introductory survey of the essential aspects of Spanish art throughout history, from the 15th to the late 19th century. The course will focus mainly on painting, but other art manifestations will be addressed.

The general objective of this course is for students to acquire and consolidate fundamental knowledge about artistic creation in the Spanish context from the 15th to the 19th century, from both an aesthetic and historical perspective. Additionally, the course will introduce key concepts and terminology specific to art history, essential for a critical understanding of the artworks and artistic periods studied. Throughout the course, the main artistic and cultural periods will be examined, establishing connections between artistic production and its historical-cultural context. A contextualized reading of the works will be encouraged, with particular attention to the relationships between art and the political, social, and cultural events that shaped each historical period.

Specific objectives:

- critically understand the evolution of artistic production and cultural expressions in Spain from the 15th to the 19th centuries
- identify the main cultural periods, artists, and masterpieces
- understand the international connections of Spanish artistic production
- analyze artworks within their historical, social, and political contexts
- develop analytical and discursive skills related to art
- acquire a general understanding and vocabulary of art and develop their own critical thinking regarding artistic inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

TOPIC 1: Introduction to the course

TOPIC 2: Arts of the 15th and 16th centuries. Hispano-Flemish and Renaissance Art

TOPIC 3: El Greco

TOPIC 4: Art of the 17th century. The Baroque

TOPIC 5: Diego Velázquez

TOPIC 6: The 18th century. Rococo and Neoclassicism

TOPIC 7: Francisco Goya

TOPIC 8: Art of the 19th century

TOPIC 9: Joaquín Sorolla

METHODOLOGY

The course will be structured as follows:

1. Theoretical background provided by the teacher in class (PPT presentations, videos)
2. In class activities: case studies, artwork analysis, group work and informal presentations, questionnaires, debates

Throughout the course students will have to carry out independent learning activities: preparing for classes in advance: readings, or doing any specific activity indicated by the teacher.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage
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EXAMS	Final exam	50%
GROUP PROJECT	Collaborative project (specific instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester)	20%
INDIVIDUAL PROJECT	Research essay (topic and specific instructions will be announced at the beginning of semester)	15%
CLASS PARTICIPATION	Class attendance; active participation; class preparation; attitude.	15%

- 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.
- At the beginning of the term the professor will announce the office hours for the course. Tutorials are an essential part of the development of the course, and students may attend tutorials during the course within those office times, but it is recommended that they are arranged in advance with the professor.
- Any non-face-to-face learning activity that requires the submission of an assignment/document, etc. will be submitted by the student through Moodle, always in PDF format.
- 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, the student may lose the right to be assessed both in the ordinary and extraordinary assessment period (art. 93-1 of the General Regulations). Failure to attend to 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 the second hour.

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)		
CONTACT HOURS	OUTSIDE CLASSROOM	OVERALL
60	90	150

READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

GENERAL TEXTS:

Moffit, J. (2011). *The Arts in Spain*. London: Thames and Hudson. (Available for loan in Comillas library)

Brown, J. (1991). *Painting in Spain 1500-1700*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. (Available for loan at: <https://archive.org/details/paintinginspain10000brow/page/n7/mode/1up>)

Tomlinson, J. (1997). *From El Greco To Goya*. New York: Harry N. Abrams. (Available for loan at: https://archive.org/details/fromelgreco togoy0000toml_n5w0/mode/2up)

COMPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Abrantes, R. (1999). *Arte español para extranjeros*. Guipuzcoa: Nerea.

Álvarez Lopera, J. (1992). *Maestros modernos del museo Thyssen-Bornemisza*. Tomo II. Madrid: Fundación Colección Thyssen-Bornemisza.

Berger, J. (1982). *Ways of Seeing*. London: Penguin Books.

Bozal, V. (1994). *Goya y el gusto moderno*. Madrid: Alianza Forma.

Bozal, V. (1996). *Goya*. Madrid: Alianza.

Brown, J. (1986). *Velázquez, pintor y cortesano*. Madrid: Alianza.

Brown, J. (1990). *La Edad de Oro de la Pintura Española*. Madrid: Nerea.

Brown, J. (2003). *A Palace for a King: The Buen Retiro Palace and the court of Philip IV*. New Haven and London: Yale University.

Buendía, J. R. (1994). *El Prado: colecciones de pintura*. Barcelona, Madrid: Lunweg.

Buendía, J. R. (1996). *La España imperial: Renacimiento y Humanismo*. Barcelona: Planeta.

Almarcha, E. Martínez-Burgos, P. y Sainz E. (Eds.). *El Greco 2014: memoria del IV centenario*. Toledo: Fundación El Greco 2014; La Fábrica

Gombrich, E. (1981). *Historia del Arte*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.

Hooper, J. (2006). *The New Spaniards*. London: Penguin Books.

Museo Nacional del Prado. (2007). *100 obras maestras del Museo Nacional del Prado*. Madrid: Mediasat Group.

Morales y Marín, J. L. (1994). *Pintura en España: 1750-1808*. Madrid: Cátedra.

Nieto Alcaide, V., Aznar Almazán, S. y Soto Caba, V. (1994). *Historia del Arte*. Madrid: Nerea.

Pérez Fernández, J. M. (2004). *Spain in Perspective: an introduction to its history, art, and culture*. Granada: Editorial Universidad de Granada.

Pérez Sánchez, A. E. (1993). *De pintura y pintores: la configuración de los modelos visuales en la Pintura española*. Madrid: Alianza.

Pérez Sánchez, A. E. (1996). *El siglo de oro: el sentimiento del Barroco*. Barcelona: Planeta, Lunweg.

Pons-Sorolla, B. (2001). *Joaquín Sorolla: vida y obra*. Madrid: Fundación de Apoyo a la Historia del Arte Hispánico.

Tomlinson, J. A. (1993). *Goya en el crepúsculo del Siglo de las Luces*. Madrid: Cátedra.

Tomlinson, J. A. (1993). *Francisco de Goya. Los cartones para tapices y los comienzos de su carrera en la corte de Madrid*. Madrid: Cátedra.

Stoichita, V. (1996). *El ojo místico: pintura y visión religiosa en el Siglo de Oro español*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.

Valdivieso, E. (1996). *La época de las revoluciones: de Goya a la modernidad*. Barcelona: Planeta.

Viñuales González, J. (1993). *Arte del siglo XIX (para estudiosos a distancia)*. Madrid: UNED.

Williams, Mark. (2010). *The Story of Spain*. Málaga: Santana Books

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Museo Nacional del Prado: <https://www.museodelprado.es/>

Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza: <https://www.museothyssen.org/>
Galería de las Colecciones Reales: <https://www.galeriadelascoleccionesreales.es/>
Google Arts and Culture: <https://artsandculture.google.com/>
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History: <https://www.metmuseum.org/es/essays/timeline-of-art-history>
