

Universidad Pontificia Comillas
ICADE Faculty of Business and Economics
Spanish Culture and History through the Visual Arts
Fall 2016

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Classes: Monday 16:00 – 17:30 and Wednesday 16:00 – 18:00
Office Hours: Thursday 10:00 – 11:00

Textbook and other materials

- William Chislett, *Spain. What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Coursepack of articles

Course Aims

The course has been designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of Spanish culture and history as depicted in different movies and other visual products. It also aims at providing students with an understanding of culture and history as a site for the construction of meaning and identity shedding thus light on the country's present issues. Several works within the visual arts dealing with different historical epochs will be examined.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course students should be able to achieve:

- a knowledge and understanding of historical and cultural development of Spain
- a knowledge of the key aspects that have shaped Spanish culture and history
- An ability to analyze cultural productions in terms of the construction of national identity
- An understanding of the differences and similarities of Spanish culture and history in the context of European civilization
- An appreciation of diversity and of the function of culture and history to understanding other cultures
- Intellectual skills to conduct a critical analysis of sources and problems, identifying key issues and controversies
- Conceptual thinking, grasping abstract concepts, synthesizing them where appropriate, and applying them to the resolution of problems
- Exercise independent judgement and construct a reasoned argument supported by evidence
- Practical skills to communicate effectively
- Practical skills to plan, undertake and report research of a non-quantitative character, making use of different types of sources

Course content: The following topics will be covered

- Spain (from Prehistory to 1492 ad)
- Socioeconomic shaping of Spanish Society after 1492
- Modernity and anti-modernity in Imperial Spain (16th and 17th centuries)
- Evolution and involution in the Spanish Enlightenment
- The crisis of 1898
- Pre-Civil War Spain: political turmoil and cultural flourishing
- Franco and its Regime
- The Spanish Transition to Democracy
- Current times, current issues: Tradition and globalization

Learning and Teaching Strategy

This course will be taught by a mixture of lectures, student-led presentations in seminar structure, analysis and discussion of movies and other visual arts products, with a student-centred learning dynamics. After watching each movie or presentation on visual arts students will analyse and discuss the different historical and cultural issues comprehended in them (artistic, political, economic, religious). Students will read a general account of the historical period covered, as well as some articles on its culture. Students will deliver one oral presentation (on topics chosen from a list provided by the instructor) and write three four-page papers.

Assessment

The final grade for this course is based on the following criteria:

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| • 1 global essay | 30% |
| • Midterm | 30% |
| • Final Exam | 30% |
| • Participation | 20% |

Essays' length: minimum 800 words, maximum 1.200 words.

Program

Day	Topic/Type of Learning Activity	Required Reading
Sept. 5	Introduction to the course (I)	*
Sept. 7	Introduction (II)	*
Sept. 12	Introduction (III)	*
Sept. 14	The Spanish Renaissance	Chislett, pag. 6-11
Sept. 19	The Spanish Renaissance (cont.) Movie: <i>Alatriste</i> (A. Díaz Yanes)	Chislett, pag. 11-18
Sept. 21	Movie: <i>Alatriste</i> (A. Díaz Yanes) (Cont)	Chislett, pag. 11-18
Sept. 26	Analysis of <i>Alatriste</i> : Spanish Empire Case Study.	Chislett, pag. 11-18
Sept. 28	Analysis of Visual Production in the Spanish Empire: Velázquez, Zurbarán Murillo, Carreño de Miranda ...	Chislett, pag. 11-18
Oct. 3	Times of Enlightenment: Spain's 18 th and 19 th centuries. Times of light, times of war	Chislett, pag. 18-26
Oct. 5	Analysis of Francisco de Goya's Paintings	Chislett, pag. 18-26
Oct. 10	Movie: <i>Goya's Ghosts</i> (Milos Forman)	Chislett, pag. 18-26
Oct. 17	Analysis of <i>Goya's Ghosts</i> . The "Disaster" of 1898 and 20 th century's outset	Chislett, pag. 18-26 Chislett, pag. 26-36
Oct. 19	Movie: <i>La lengua de las mariposas</i> (J.L. Cuerda)	Chislett, pag. 26-36
Oct. 24	Analysis of <i>La lengua de las mariposas</i>	Chislett, pag. 26-36
Oct. 26	1936-1939: The Spanish Civil War and Franco's Dictatorship Class in the Reina Sofía Museum	Chislett, pag. 36-41 Chislett, pag. 42-73
Oct. 31	1936-1939: The Spanish Civil War and Franco's Dictatorship Class in the Reina Sofía Museum	Chislett, pag. 36-41 Chislett, pag. 42-73
Nov. 2	Midterm The Franco Regime: 1939-1975	Chislett, pag. 42-73
Nov. 7	The Franco Regime: 1939-1975	Chislett, pag. 42-73
Nov. 14	Movie: <i>I franco, 14 pesetas</i> (C. Iglesias)	Chislett, pag. 42-73
Nov. 16	The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982: an introduction	
Nov. 21	The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982.	Chislett, pag. 74-101
Nov. 23	The Socialist era, 1982-1996	Chislett, pag. 103-115
Nov. 28	Movie (TBA)	Chislett, pag. 103-115
Nov. 30	Analysis of the movie. Visual production of the 80s.	Chislett, pag. 103-115
Dec. 5	The Return of the Right, 1996-2004	Chislett, pag. 131-153
Dec. 7	The Return of the Right, 1996-2004 (cont). Movie, <i>Perdiendo el Norte</i>	Chislett, pag. 131-153
4/26	Movie, <i>Perdiendo el Norte</i> (cont.)	Chislett, pag. 187-196
4/28	Analysis of <i>Perdiendo el Norte</i> . Chislett, "What Lies Ahead?" (roundtable)	Chislett, pag. 187-196