

Spanish Politics
Boston University (in Madrid)

Professor Juan Maldonado

Course Description

The study of Spanish politics will attempt to give the students an understanding of the peculiarities and circumstances of the Spanish reality in recent years, especially the development and consolidation of democracy, and with special emphasis on the institutional system and the political processes of the past thirty years..

The most important aspect will be the period of discussion at the beginning of each class during which the students will formulate questions about the news, current events, political leaders, etc.

General Class Outline:

1. The authoritarian antecedents of the democratic system: Franco and Francoism
2. The political transition to a constitutional Monarchy
3. The institutions of the Spanish system
 - a. The Congress of Deputies and the Senate
 - b. The Government
 - c. The Justice System and the Constitutional Court
4. The Autonomous State
5. Legislative Elections and the Electoral System

Assignments and course grades:

A written quiz about the Spanish political system:	30%
Final Exam:	40%
Short Paper about an aspect of Spanish politics:	20%
Questions and In-class Participation:	10%

Course Readings:

Paloma Román (Coordinadora): *Sistema político español*, (2ª edición), McGraw-Hill, Madrid 2001 – **Required**