CAS LS 241: An Introduction to the Civilization of Spain (Spring 2017)

Instructor: Prof. Fernando Herrero-Matoses, PhD
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Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 am - 12:00 pm.
Room: TBA.
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Office Hours: Anytime by appointment.

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to Iberian cultures from the Middle Ages to present day. Students will examine case studies that describe everyday life, culture, and living spaces in medieval Iberia and contemporary Spain in order to become familiar with predominant topics and questions underlying the historical periods studied in the course. Everyday life and culture will be addressed chronologically across different time periods, with an emphasis on the important historical events, popular culture, literature, and the art and architecture of each: Iberia in the Middle Ages, Muslim Spain, the Early Modern to Modern Spanish Empire, the Conflicts of Modernity, Civil War and Francoism, the democratic period and the challenges of the 21st century. The class will often meet and take place at some of Madrid’s most prominent museums and Spanish historical sites.

This course aims to enrich student understanding of these topics through cultural analysis, critical thinking, and personal experience. This course explores the main historical and cultural conflicts in Spain by examining particular case studies offering an interdisciplinary approach to broad political, social, and cultural developments in Spanish history.

The course will be taught in Spanish. Active participation, a critical spirit, and group work are essential to this course.

Learning Outcomes

--- Students will become familiar with a variety of primary literary and cultural works spanning the Middle Ages to the 21st century that are considered representative of each historical period studied in this class within Hispanic Studies.

--- Students will develop and use analytical approaches to the study of culture (reading literature, audiovisuals, art and architecture, etc.) in order to engage class material critically.
--- Students will acquire a broad comprehension of the relevance of cultural history to current day issues and will be able to qualitatively relate these cultural matters to the current global context.

--- Students will use Madrid and its cultural offering as both a laboratory and object of analysis, enriching the uniqueness of the study abroad experience.

**Grading:**

Attendance and class participation: 10 %
3 short written assignments: 30 % (10 % each)
Group Oral Presentation: 10 %
Midterm Exam: 25 %
Final Exam: 25 %

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is required in class and on class visits in Madrid. Students are held accountable for completing assigned readings and for coming to class prepared with questions about the material on the day it is due. NO unexcused absences are permitted. For each unexcused absence, the final grade will be lowered three percentage points (3%) of the final total grade.

**Class Visits:**

Class will be held off-site for the following study visits (attendance required):

- Museo Arqueológico
- Museo del Prado
- Museo de Romanticismo
- Walking tour of historic Madrid de los Austrias
- Museo Reina Sofía

**Course Policy:**

It is every student’s responsibility to read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be “…expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean.” You can view the entire Academic Conduct Code here: [http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/]
Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks
- an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work
- the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one’s own
- submitting evaluations of group members’ work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member
- altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.

Class Etiquette

The most essential part of student behavior in class is a willingness to actively participate. The following are prohibited in class: food, late arrivals, being disrespectful to other opinions and points of view expressed in class.

Course Bibliography

Earle, Rebecca “If You Eat Their Food . . .: Diets and Bodies in Early Colonial Spanish America”

**Course Calendar**

**PART 1. Medieval Iberia: Al-Andalus and the origin of the Spanish Kingdoms**

**Class 1. Course Introduction.**  
Introduction to themes, topics and course material.
An ongoing discussion: Multi-nationalism and a nation without center.

**Class 2. From Iberia to Hispania: From Iberian land to a Roman Province**  
Roman daily life in Hispania: Spanish Roman cities and social institutions
Class study: Roman architecture and mosaics
CLASS VISIT TO MUSEO ARQUEOLÓGICO
Class 3. Land, peoples and cultures: the medieval invasions of the Iberian Peninsula.
   The Visigoth invasion, the Arab conquest and the formation of the Christian kingdoms.
   **Class study:** Visigothic architecture and religious pilgrimage
   **Reading:** “Beginnings and A Brief History of First-Rate Place”, *The Ornament of the World*, Menocal, pp. 3-50.

Class 4. Cities, architecture and poems. Arts and cultures in Muslim Spain. Al-Andalus 1
   Mudéjar Art: literature and everyday life in Muslim Spain.
   **Class study:** La Mezquita de Córdoba and “The Ring of the Dove”.
   **Reading:** “Christianity and Islam in the Formation of Spanish Art” Moffitt, pp. 27-48
   “Visions of other worlds”, Menocal, pp. 216-228.
   “On Forgetting a Beloved”, pp. 77-80.

   The myth of the Christian Reconquista and the chivalric legends
   **Class study:** El Cid Campeador y Santiago Matamoros.
   **Reading:** “Visigoths and Asturians, Spaniards?” Payne, pp. 43-53.
   “Exile of the Cid and his capture in Valencia”, pp. 111-117.

Class 6. Conversos, Moriscos and Christians: *Convivencia* and Sepharad.
   Sephardi and Moors: multiculturalism in late medieval Spain
   **Class study:** Cities of the secret: Córdoba and Toledo
   **Assignment 1. Individual reflections TBA.**

   **Class study:** La Alhambra, political emblems and the Catholic Inquisition
   **Reading:** “The Union of the crowns”, Eliott, pp. 1-33.

   Reconfiguration of a new world: Columbus’s trips, the peninsular empires, and the modern global era.
   **Class study:** Columbus’s trip and his diary.
   **Reading:** Columbus letters
Group Oral Presentation

PART 2. Early Modern Spain: The Spanish Empire and The World nation

Class 9. The Spanish global Empire: Carlos V and Felipe II. The Empire 1.
The Hapsburg dynasty and the Spanish empire: Spain as a world nation.
Case study: El Escorial and maps in the era of the world powers.
Reading: “Vicissitudes of a world power 1500-1700”, Kamen, pp. 152-172.
“Ecstasy and Agony” Williams, pp. 111-138.

Class 10. Spanish Catholicism: Religious Wars and the reshaping of Europe. The Empire 2.
European Religious Wars and the counter-reformation
Case study: El Escorial and Velazquez’s La Rendición de Breda

Class 11. Spanish Americas: Colonialism and cultural conflict: A nation within two worlds. The Empire 3.
Arts, food, and literature of the Spanish Americas: Columbus’ diary and Conquistadores’s Oath
Case study: Bartolomé de las Casas and Valladolid’s debate
“If You Eat Their Food . . .: Diets and Bodies in Early Colonial Spanish America” Earle, pp. 688-713.
Assignment 2. Individual visit to Museo de las Américas.
Group Oral Presentation

Arts of the Habsburg Spain and the Spanish early modern tradition.
Case study: Velázquez’s painting: Royal Portraits, classic myths and Enanos.
Reading: “Art and the Counterreformation”, Moffitt, pp. 119-124.
“Velázquez and the Evolution of High Baroque Painting in Madrid” Brown, pp. 4-11.
CLASS VISIT TO PRADO MUSEUM.

Class 13. The fall of the dream: The Spanish Golden Age. The Empire 5
The fate of Don Quijote and the end of the Imperial ideal.
Case study: Life and dreams in early modern Spain.
Reading: Study guide: Cervantes, Lope, Quevedo and Calderón.
“Plaza Mayor: Blood and Theater” Nash, pp. 61-73.
CLASS VISIT TO MADRID DE LOS AUSTRIA
Class 14. Review for midterm exam
Questions and Conflicts: Class review for midterm exam
Reading: student’s notes and exam material
Group Oral Presentation

Class 15. Midterm Exam

PART 3. The Bourbons and the Modern Era

Class 16. The Enlightenment, the new monarchy and Absolute Power
The Bourbon dynasty and absolute power. Felipe V and the “Decretos de Nueva Planta.”
Assignment 3. Individual visit to the Royal Palace.

Class 17. Popular Insurgency: the Napoleonic invasion and the War of Independence.
The nation as insurgented people. The legend of Spanish insurrection.
Case study: Goya’s “Disasters of the War series” and “Fusilamientos 3 de mayo”.
Reading: “Dos de Mayo: Insurgency” Stein and Stein, pp. 75-93.
“Plaza Dos de Mayo: Goya and National Heroes” Nash, pp. 93-103.

Class 18. Goya: In-between the old and the new. The tragic fate of Spanish Absolutism.
The dark side of the Enlightenment: political absolutism and the return of the religious inquisition.
Case study: Goya’s art and the Black Paintings series.
Reading: Study Guide
“La Maja Vestida: Dress as Resistance to Enlightenment in Late-18th-Century Madrid”, Noyes, pp. 197-217.
CLASS VISIT TO PRADO MUSEUM

Social conflict, and political instability in the Spanish streets.
Case study: Gaudi’s architecture and the urban planning of Barcelona.
Reading: “Mapping the working-class city”, Ealham, pp. 21-49.

Class 20. Spanish Woman in the XIXth century: Arts and gender under Spanish Capitalism
Social class and labor in XIXth century Spain: The female role in early modern city: Romanticismo and Folkore.
Case study: Carmen and the clichés of Spanish woman.

CLASS VISIT TO MUSEO ROMANTICISMO.

Generación 98 and national trauma: The loss of the last Imperial colonies and the
disenchantment of national identity.
Case study: Generación 98 and the Institución Libre de Enseñanza

Group Oral Presentation

PART 4. Spain and the 20th century.

La República, las Misiones Pedagógicas and la Residencia de Estudiantes.
La Semana Trágica, las revueltas de Asturias and la II República.
Case study: La Barraca and Las Hurdes Tierra Sin Pan.
Reading: “Education and the limits of Liberalism”, Álvarez Junco, pp. 45-52;

Class 23. Spanish Civil War and Franco’s dictatorship: the cultural and political isolation of Spain.
The civil war, dictatorship and the social, political and cultural isolation.
Case study: Pabellón de España 37 y el Valle de los Caídos.
Reading: “Who was responsible?, The Origins of the Spanish Civil War of 1936”,
“The legacy of Jose Antonio”, Courtship Customs in Postwar Spain, Carmen Martín Gaite, pp. 53-68.

Class 24. Art, power and ideology: Spanish modern art and politics
Case study: Guernica, Equipo Crónica and Bienvenido Mr.Marshall.
Readings: Study guide
CLASS VISIT TO THE REINA SOFIA MUSEUM.

Class 25. Post-Franco Spain: cultural refashioning and the Political Transition
Spanish life and arts after Franco and 1981.
Case study: La Movida and Almodóvar’s films.
Reading: Study Guide
The symbolism of 1992 and major international world-events.
Spanish Contemporary Art and tourism
Case study: Reina Sofia Museum and Guggenheim Bilbao

Class 27. 2000s and the 15-M: Challenges and Uncertainties for 21st century Spain
Financial Crisis and Austerity politics: dealing with memory and social inequality:
Case study: Social protests and the new political scenario
Reading: “The Cannibal wave: the cultural logic of Spain’s temporality of crisis (revolution, biopolitics, hunger and memory), Germán Labrador, pp. 1-32
Group Oral Presentation

Class 28. Final Course Review
Course Questions and Conflicts: Final Review.

Class 29. Final Exam