



## **CAS SP 345: Spanish Contemporary Politics: Current topics up for Debate**

**Instructor:** Lucas Pascual

**E-mail:** [lucaspb@bu.edu](mailto:lucaspb@bu.edu)

**Schedule:** Monday to Thursday – 5:00 – 07:00 pm.

**Room:** TBA, Instituto Internacional (IIE)

**Office Hours:** TBA and by appointment

**Office Location:** Instituto Internacional (IIE), 4th Floor, Room 402 (Madrid)

**Course Credits:** 4 (*This course meets a total of 8 hours per week over 6 weeks- additional time allotted for coursework completed outside of class*)

**This course will be taught entirely in Spanish**

### **Course description**

This course offers students a comprehensive introduction to the historical, social, and economic aspects of Spanish politics. Through an exploration of the Spanish political system, its institutions, historical processes, and contemporary developments, students will gain a deep understanding of the country's political landscape.

This course covers a wide range of topics, including political parties and party systems, electoral institutions, voting and accountability, social movements, identity politics, and the role of the EU in Spanish politics. Through a combination of lectures, class discussions, and field trips, students will engage with the course material and critically analyze recent political developments in Spain.

Lectures provide theoretical and historical perspectives on the course topics, while class discussions use the tools of modern political science to delve deeper into contemporary issues. Field trips offer an opportunity for students to explore the historical and political sites related to the course topics first-hand.

By the end of the course, students will have gained a well-rounded understanding of Spanish politics and will be equipped with the analytical tools necessary to assess and debate current political issues in Spain.

### **Readings and Assignments**

**Readings:** The course is divided into 5 units/topics. In each of them, the students will read different texts and/or news articles that will help them prepare their arguments for class debates, the exam, and essays that they will complete throughout the course. All readings are indicated on the course calendar and are available on Blackboard (learn.bu.edu). Students should read these texts in accordance with the course calendar.

**Films:** Throughout the course students will watch two films. Both films are available on Blackboard. Students must view these films before the date indicated on the course calendar.

**Essays:** After the first three sections, the midterm exam will take place. **The students will then have to write an essay (two in total).** In these essays, the students will respond to a series of questions proposed by the instructor in which they will have to compare and discuss the various contents of both the class, the readings, as well as other materials provided. Students can find the instructions/ guidelines for these essays on Blackboard. The due dates for each essay will be indicated on Blackboard as well, along with complementary material meant to help students with the drafting of each essay.

**Group presentation:** Students will find the instructions and the materials for the presentation on Blackboard.

## **Grading**

Classwork and participation .....	15%
Group Presentation .....	15%
Midterm Exam.....	35%
Essays (2) .....	35%

## **Community of Learning: Class and University Policies**

**Attendance policy.** Following Boston University's attendance policy, class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend each class session unless they have a medical reason for being absent; no unexcused absences are permitted. Absences are considered excused for illness when accompanied by a doctor's note (justificante). Travel must not conflict with academic obligations. Students are responsible for getting any class notes and/or making up missed work and for notifying their instructors.

**Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities.** If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at (617) 353-3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests.

**Academic Conduct Statement.** 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." Review the entire Academic Conduct Code here:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

**Class Etiquette.** BU Madrid policy states that the use of laptops and cell phones is completely prohibited during class unless you have an academic accommodation previously authorized. Compliance with this policy has a bearing on the participation grade.

**Course Materials and Courseware:** All assigned course materials are available on Blackboard, [learn.bu.edu](http://learn.bu.edu).

### **Course Calendar and Assigned Readings**

<b>Week 1</b>
<b>TOPIC 1: THE LEGACY OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR</b>
<b>May 22:</b> Memory and history: revisiting the Spanish Civil War
<b>May 23:</b> The voices of the memory: Museo Virtual de la Mujer Combatiente
<b>May 24:</b> FIELD TRIP: Exploring Madrid's Civil War and Francoist history
<b>TOPIC 2: THE SPANISH POLITICAL SYSTEM</b>
<b>May 25:</b> The transition to democracy and the Spanish Constitution
<b>Week 2</b>
<b>May 29:</b> Political parties and electoral politics in Spain
<b>May 30:</b> Regionalism and identity politics in contemporary Spain

<b>May 31:</b> Spanish politics today
<b>Week 3</b>
<b>June 05: FIELD TRIP:</b> “Madrid: City of Power”
<b>TOPIC 3: SPAIN'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>
<b>June 06:</b> “Welcome Mr. Marshall”: 70 years of relations between the USA and Spain
<b>June 07:</b> Spain and Europe: integration and challenges
<b>June 08:</b> The role of Spain in NATO, the UN, and other multilateral organizations
<b>Week 4</b>
<b>June 12:</b> Spain's relations with Latin America: history and contemporary issues
<b>June 13: MIDTERM</b>
<b>TOPIC 4: DECOLONIZATION, MIGRATION, AND EXILE</b>
<b>June 14:</b> The fall of Spanish colonialism in Africa and the Western Sahara conflict
<b>June 15:</b> Borders, migrations, and refugees in Spain
<b>Week 5</b>
<b>June 19:</b> Memories of diversity: navigating immigration in Spain
<b>June 20: FIELD TRIP:</b> Lavapiés neighborhood
<b>TOPIC 5: WELFARE STATE, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS</b>
<b>June 21:</b> The Spanish welfare state: development and controversies

<b>Assignment 1</b>
<b>June 22:</b> Social movements and political protest
<b>Week 6</b>
<b>June 26: FIELD TRIP:</b> Museo Reina Sofía
<b>June 27:</b> Civil rights and diversity in contemporary Spain
<b>June 28: FIELD TRIP:</b> Tribunal-Chueca neighborhood
<b>June 29: Assignment 2</b>