

INAS 425 – Spanish Civilization and Culture

- 3 credits / 45 contact hours
- Elective taught in English

□ **Objective:**

The emphasis of this course will be to present a survey of the history, culture, and artistic production of Spain. Its main objective is to give the student an overview of Spain's history: from the Moorish Conquest in the VIII century up to the XXI century; and analyze the major factors that had contributed to the formation of Spain's cultural and literary heritage.

The contents of the course are as follows:

- 1. Spain and the Spanish language.** In this part of the course, the student will be introduced to a general overview of the development of the Spanish language from its origins up to our present day. It will take into account the roots of the language as it has been influenced by the cultures that came across the Peninsula: the prehistoric context, the Roman, the Visigoths, the Muslims, and finally the emergence of Castilian as the dominant language.
- 2. Muslim Spain (711-1492).** In this part of the course will introduce the student into the history of the Muslim invasion, and it would study its consequences in the shaping of Spain's national identity.
- 3. Medieval Spain (to 1474).** In this part will take into account the rule of the Visigoths and its downfall under the dominance of the Muslim empire, and the historical struggle that led Spain into a long war of Reconquest, initiated in the northern part of the country. It will give the student a broad understanding of the economic and social impact of Medieval Spain up to the rise of Castile as the dominant kingdom in the Iberian Peninsula.
- 4. Spanish Literature and Learning to 1474.** The focus in this part will change towards the study of Spain's cultural development from its beginnings. It will study the early Christian Latin authors, those from the eleventh, twelfth, and early thirteenth centuries. It will introduce the influence of Galician-Portuguese lyric, and take a look at Spain's most literary king Alfonso X "the wise." It will, then, present an overall picture of pre-renaissance Spain: late thirteenth century up to the fifteenth century.
- 5. Monarchy and Empire (1474-1700).** This part will analyze the new role Spain played in the world as it rose to the status of world power. It will study the consequences of world dominance, and its repercussions into the shaping of Spain's national identity.

6. **Spanish Literature (1474-1681).** In this part the student will explore Spain's Golden Age. It is an era where Spain rose to become an empire. It will analyze the role of literature and empire, and the counterreformation. It will, briefly, introduce the student to the works of Cervantes, Góngora, Quevedo, and Lope de Vega.
7. **Spanish History from 1700.** In this part the student will analyze the last efforts made by the Spanish monarchy to maintain its status as a world power. It would start by introducing the coming of the Bourbon dynasty to Spain, and its decline. It will study the consequences of Napoleon's invasion, and the revolutions that marked the first half of the XIX century.
8. **Spanish Literature (after 1700).** In this part the student will explore the period of the Enlightenment, and the Romanticism. He or she will be introducing to the genres of realism and costumbrism. He or she will take into consideration the ideological and critical tendencies of the nineteenth century, the Generación del '98, and its prose. The student will be introduced to the production of the early part of the twentieth century, and the pre and post Civil war literature.
9. **The visual arts in Spain.** The student will take a look at the production of art in Spain. He or she will be introduced to the major artists, and he or she will study the evolution of artistic creation in the Spanish Peninsula. From its beginnings, to the influence of Moorish, and Italian art. It will study artists such as El Greco, Ribera, Zurbarán, Velázquez, Alonso Cano, Murrillo, Goya, Gaudy, Picasso, Dali, and Miró.

The student will have the advantage of being able to explore some of the places that make up the history of Spain. He or she will be fortunate to be able to be within some of the historical monuments that have shaped Spain's identity. He or she will be taken to visit various cities of great importance for its historical setting, cities such as Toledo, Sevilla, Córdoba, Granada, or Madrid. In these, the student will be able to visit its monuments, and museums. He or she will reinforce visually and interact with the history and culture that it is taught in this course.

□ **Course Objectives:**

The objective of the course is to present to the student a survey of the cultural history of Spain from the Middle Ages up to the XX century. The students will gain knowledge about the different cultures that in the past formed the identity of Spain, and that also shaped the cultural and artistic production in the Iberian Peninsula. From the reading assignments, the student will reinforce their knowledge about Spain. The aim of the course is to make the student comprehend how events shaped the identity of Spain, and to understand the uniqueness of the culture of Spain today.

❑ **Instructional Approaches:**

The approach in the course will be to foster critical thinking through lectures, and the discussions of the texts assigned for the course, as well as the extra readings that the students will investigate on his or her own. Its main approach is to teach students to interpret the historical documentation, and to question the perspectives offered in some of the historical texts presented for discussion.

❑ **Course Requirements, Assignments:**

Students must come to class prepared with all the readings done, and ready to engage in discussion with the rest of their peers. There will be a group project, a midterm and a final exam.

- Group project and Presentations

Students will be required to research an area discussed in the class, and write a 10 page paper. They will present to the class the results of their findings. The class, then, will engage on a discussion by asking questions, or presenting different points of view about the topic.

Each student in the group will be responsible for their work, and will present it separately. But, there must be a consistency between the different parts of the project. In other words, the team will present an outline to the instructor, and who is responsible to develop each part. They will be graded on their individual work and the project as a whole.

The project will be an ongoing activity in the classroom. Students will report weekly about the state of their findings, and research.

- Midterm and Final Exam

The exams will evaluate the student's ability to read critically historical documents. They will be tested on their knowledge of Spain's history. The exams will have a section in short essay questions, and an essay section.

❑ **Course Policies:**

It is required that the student participates in all class discussions. It is their responsibility to read assigned reading before each meeting, and to keep notes on the discussions.

Assignments must be handed on time, and they will **not** be accepted late.

Students must attend all meetings. Unexcused absences will **not** be accepted, and they will affect the final grade. For each unexcused absence, the student will lose half a letter grade. Absences are only excused with a medical note.

There will not be extra credit or make ups. Any student who leaves the program early without notification will receive an "F" for their final grade. Students will not receive a letter of Incomplete. All work must be completed before leaving the program.

The program follows the Grading Policies set by Winthrop University. See Appendix A.

<p>Grading and Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group project 30% • Midterm Exam 25% • Final Exam 25% • Participation 20% 	<p>The breakdown for the grades will be as follows¹:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>A</td><td>90-100</td></tr> <tr><td>B</td><td>89-80</td></tr> <tr><td>C</td><td>79-70</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>60-69</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>59-0</td></tr> </table>	A	90-100	B	89-80	C	79-70	D	60-69	F	59-0
A	90-100										
B	89-80										
C	79-70										
D	60-69										
F	59-0										

Course’s Main Text

- Russell, P.E. *Spain: A Companion to Spanish Studies*. New York: Routledge, 1989.

Recommended Bibliography:

- Carr, Raymond. *Spain: A History*. Oxford UP, 2000.
- Crow, John A. 4th Ed. *Spain: the Root & the Flower: An Interpretation of Spain and the Spanish People*. Los Angeles: U of California P, 2005.

¹ Note.- Some professors will use the grading system from the University of Wales which is as follows:

- | | |
|----|---------------|
| 40 | Aprobado, |
| 50 | Bien, |
| 60 | Notable |
| 70 | Sobresaliente |

Nevertheless, the grades will be transferred to your school using the grading used in Winthrop University.

- Gies, David T. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999.
- Kamen, Henry. *Empire: How Spain Became a World Power (1492-1763)*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers Inc., 2003.
- . *The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1997.
- Menocal, María Rosa. *The Ornament of the World*. New York: Little, Brown & Co., 2002.

Program

Week 1	Spain and the Spanish language Cont.
Week 2	Muslim Spain (711-1492) Cont.
Week 3	Medieval Spain (to 1474) Cont.
Week 4	Monarchy and Empire (1474-1700) Cont.
Week 5	Spanish Literature and Learning (to 1474) Spanish Literature (1474-1681)
Week 6	Review
Week 7	Spanish History (from 1700) Holiday (Todos los Santos)
Week 8	Spanish Literature (after 1700) Cont.
Week 9	Spanish Literature (after 1936) Cont.
Week 10	The visual arts in Spain Cont.
Week 11	The visual arts in Spain Project
Week 12	Final Exam