

BCEA Course Descriptions

HISP 331 History of Spain: Ancient to Modern (Intermediate Spanish)

Location: Hispanic Studies Center

Credits: 3

Schedule: TBA

Instructors: Professors from the University of Barcelona

Course/Lab Fee: None

Cross-Listing: History/Spanish Studies

Prerequisite: Proficiency based

Course Description

This course consists of two parts as separate short courses (20 hours each) taught at the University of Barcelona Hispanic Studies Center. Students will be enrolled in History of Spain I and History of Spain II to receive full credit for this course. This course is taught solely in Spanish at the intermediate level.

HISTORY OF SPAIN I: This part of the course will familiarize students with basic aspects of Spain's history from Prehistoric times up until the Roman period, looking at the key eras between the Paleolithic and Romanization. Students study the historical periods known as Prehistory. Visits will be organized to the historic areas of Barcelona to introduce students to the Roman and Visigothic cities. Topics include: Prehistory: Paleolithic and Neolithic; Entering History: colonization and the metal route; Phoenicians and Greeks; Tartessos, the Carthaginian empire, consequences of the colonizations; The pre-Roman peoples: social organization, economic structure; The Romanization of the Iberian Peninsula; The fall of the Roman Empire: Sueves, Vandals and Alans in Hispania; The Visigothic Kingdom of Tolosa (418-507); Visigothic Spain. The Kingdom of Toledo: political institutions, law, society, economy and culture; Crisis of the Visigothic kingdom: the spread of Islam.

HISTORY OF SPAIN II: This part of the course introduces students to the history of Spain since the unification of the peninsula under the Catholic Monarchs (end of the 15th century) until the crisis of the Ancien Régime at the end of the 18th century. During this long period Spain was ruled by two monarchies – the Habsburg and Bourbons. The course deals with interesting periods such as the Empire of Charles V, the Austrias and the Reformation of the Bourbons. Visits to the historical area of Barcelona will show students the beginnings of the modern city. The Catholic Monarchs and the unification of the peninsula The Habsburgs and Spanish hegemony in the 16th century: from Charles I's Empire to Philip II's Spanish Empire (1516-1598) Decline of the Austrias and the crisis of the 17th century: from Philip III to Charles II (1598-1700) 18th century Bourbon Reformism: from Philip V to Charles III (1700-1788) The end of the century and the crisis of the absolute monarchy.