

BCEA Course Descriptions

STSP 371 Modern Spain: Economy, Society and Institutions (Intermediate Spanish)

Location: Hispanic Studies Center

Credits: 3

Schedule: TBA

Instructors: Professors from the University of Barcelona

Cross-Listing: Literature/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 both Spanish Economy Today, and Modern Spain: Society and Institutions to receive full credit for this course. This course is taught solely in Spanish at the intermediate to advanced-intermediate level.

Part I: SPANISH ECONOMY TODAY: This course focuses on the Spanish economy today and on its development in the recent past. The aim is to provide students with the information needed to understand the Spanish economy, which is analyzed in class by discussing articles from the press. The course is organized in two terms. The course will introduce the factors that define the Spanish economy in general (its main areas of activity, its weaknesses, the evolution of consumption, etc) and briefly review the economic policies implemented by the governments of the Franco era. The course then centers on the last 25 years of democracy in Spain, placing particular emphasis on aspects such as tax policy and the financing of the Autonomous Communities that remain at the forefront of economic debate. Topics will include: The strong points and weak points of the Spanish economy; the media banks and savings banks; management and trade unions; The Franco Régime (1939-1975); Spain's backwardness autarchy the "economic miracle" of the sixties.

Part II: MODERN SPAIN: SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS This course introduces students to the diversity of Spain through its natural regions and autonomous regions, and study the process towards democracy through the political transition, the Spanish Constitution and present-day institutions. Topics include: Present-day Spain: its socio-cultural and economic diversity; The political history and transition to democracy; the Spanish Constitution and the State of the autonomies and of the institutions in Spain.