

BCEA COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

STSP470 Topics in Contemporary Spanish Culture (Advanced Spanish)

Location: Hispanic Studies Center

Credits: 3

Schedule: TBA

Instructors: Professors from the University of Barcelona

Cross-Listing: Various

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. This course is taught solely in Spanish at the advanced level. Students will be required to choose two of the following three 20-hr courses to receive full credit for this course: 1. Catalan Language and Culture 2. Geography of Spain 3. Spanish Cinema

CATALAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE - This course will cover Catalan expressions and the grammatical structures used in everyday conversation; to introduce aspects of Catalan culture. Language learning will focus on pronunciation and spelling Greetings, saying good-bye and polite forms Personal information Looking for a place to live. Accommodation, Giving directions, Transport, Everyday activities, Expressing time, etc. Cultural Learning will focus on the history of Catalonia and the Catalan language; basic geography; holidays and traditional customs of the region.

GEOGRAPHY OF SPAIN - This course introduces students to Spain's natural environment and its relationship with Spanish society and the country's economy. Geomorphology, economy and society Genesis of the Iberian Peninsula Large structural and topographical units Relationship between physical factors and the human factor Climate, economy and society Temperatures, rainfall, prevailing winds Climate diversity in the Iberian Peninsula Relationship between climate factors and human activities Hydrography, economy and society Rivers, lakes, lagoons and their relation to human activities Ecology, economy and society Vegetation, fauna and global dynamics.

SPANISH CINEMA - The course will discuss films shown in class and to broaden students' knowledge of conversational Spanish through cinema (formal and informal register, dialect varieties, and so on). The course also aims to analyse how films reflect Spanish society and how Spanish cinema responds to its changing needs. During the course students will view films, or excerpts of films, from among the most representative in Spanish cinema from its origins to the present day. Students will analyse the artistic oeuvres of established film-makers such as Buñuel, Bardem, García Berlanga, Saura, etc., and so on, and special attention will be paid to the works of the most important Spanish directors of the last two decades – Almodóvar, Trueba, Amenábar, Medem, Miró, among others.