

Curso GS-02 CONTEMPORARY SPAIN: ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Lecturer Dra. Mónica Aguilar Alba (malba@us.es)

Substitute Lecturer Dra. Belén Pedregal Mateos (bpedregal@us.es)

This course is taught in English and is open to students with any level of Spanish.

This class meets Tues/Thurs 11am-1pm.

Objectives

The Course aims to provide:

- A coherent content focused upon the ways in which relationships between people and the natural environment, as well as patterns of spatial relationships, vary throughout Spain.
- An understanding of how these relationships produce the distinctiveness of particular places, landscapes, and patterns of environmental and human attributes, as well as societies and identities.
- The ability to conceptualize these relationships and their outcomes across a range of scales.
- An appreciation of the characteristics of the urban, regional and rural environments of selected areas in Spain and of the geographical processes which underlie their development.
- An understanding of the practical application of concepts and methods learnt in the classroom.

Skills outcomes:

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- The political and administrative organization of Spain.
- The relationships between human and physical systems within Spain.
- The demographic, economic, and environmental characteristics of the regions within Spain.

Students will have the opportunity of developing the following skills during the Course:

- To be able to differentiate between regions in terms of key geographical characteristics
- To be able to describe and discuss differences in development within Spain.
- To discuss the nature of the main environmental problems affecting Spain.
- To understand some of the processes and trends shaping Spain today.
- To acquire the capacity to analyze broader environmental, social and economic challenges.

Syllabus

Lectures and student-centred learning, covering the following topics:

Block I : Administrative divisions and the political organization of Spain

1. The Internal Organization of the State. Administrative Divisions. The Spain of the Autonomous Communities.

2. Spain within the International Context. The Construction of the European Union.

Block II: The Physical Environment. The Relationship between Human Society and the Natural Environment.

3. Natural Physical Features: Landforms, Climate and Vegetation.

4. Human Interaction with the Environment and Ecological Effects. The Protection of Natural Areas and Spain's Environmental Policy.

Block III: Population Distribution and Settlement Patterns.

5. Recent Trends in Population Distribution within Spain. Demographic Dynamics and Structure.

6. Settlement Patterns. Urbanization and Urban System Development in Spain. Urban Morphology: Changing Patterns.

Block IV: Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity

7. Agriculture, Environment, and Sustainable Development. Spain's Rural Landscapes.

8. The Restructuring of Industry in Spain. Services, Transport and Tourism.

Bibliography

CHISLETT, W. *Spain: Going Places. Economics, Political and Social Progress, 1975–2008*. Madrid: Telefónica, 2008.

FARRELL, M. *Spain in the EU: the Road to Economic Convergence*. Palgrave, New York: Palgrave, 2001 [e-resource]

GEOGRAFÍA de España. R. Mendez y F. Molinero, coords. Barcelona: Ariel, 1993.

GEOGRAFÍA de España. Gil Olcina, A. y J. Gómez Mendoza, J., coords. Barcelona: Ariel, 2001.

GREEN WORLD RESEARCH. *Examples of European Agri-environment Schemes and Livestock Systems and their Influence on Spanish Cultural Landscapes*. Wageningen: Alterra, 2001.

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION. *Living with Diversity*, XXIX IGU Congress Seoul 2000: Spanish Contribution.

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION. *Spain and the Mediterranean, a Reflection from the Spanish Geography*, XXXI IGU Congress Tunis 2008: Spanish Contribution.

SPAIN, Monuments and Landscapes. A Complete View. A. Arrebola, dir. Córdoba: EDARA, 2002.

Websites

- Instituto Nacional de Estadística: <http://www.ine.es>

- European Union website: <http://europa.eu>

- Aplicación Informática del Instituto de Estadística de Andalucía: *SIMA. Sistema de Información Multiterritorial de Andalucía* (actualizaciones anuales).

- Centro virtual Cervantes. Paisajes de España <http://cvc.cervantes.es/actcult/paisajes/>

- Mapa interactivo de España:

<http://w3.cnice.mec.es/eos/MaterialesEducativos/mem2002/mapa/>

- Recursos didácticos de la Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles:

http://age.ieg.csic.es/recur_didacticos/index.htm

- España a través de mapas: <http://www.ign.es/espmap/>

- Portal educativo de ciencias naturales y aplicadas:

http://www.natureduca.com/geog_indice_fis3.php#inicio

Dictionaries:

GREGORY, D. *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. Oxford: Wiley–Blackwell, 2009, 5th ed.

HUBER, T.P., LARKIN, R.P. and GARY L. *Dictionary of Concepts in Physical Geography*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988.

MAYHEW, S. *A Dictionary of Geography*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009, 4th ed.

WHITTOW, J.B. *The Penguin Dictionary of Physical Geography*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1986.

Assignments: Group Project

Based on the Course syllabus, students will undertake a Group Project on the key territorial features of one of Spain's Autonomous Communities.

Assessment

Reading and participation 10%

Course work: Group Project 40%

Written exam 50%