

## **Spanish Culture and Society**

Intermediate Level

Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Sevilla

45 contact hours

This class is taught in Spanish.

### Objective

The main objective of this course is to give students a systematic and organized vision of modern-day Spain. Understanding where we come from helps us know who we are.

### Content

1. The political system, religion, and languages of Spain. Economy, industry, educational system, social problems, Spanish issues, and the value of the family.
  2. How to behave in Spanish society. Spanish social customs and cultural differences.
  3. Where we are. Spanish geography. Spain's autonomies: Andalucía, Castilla y León, Cataluña, Galicia, Madrid, and the Basque Country. Cultural diversity.
  4. Where we come from. Spanish history:  
The Romans and Romanization.  
Muslim Spain.  
The Catholic Monarchs and the discovery of America.  
The formation of the Spanish empire: Carlos I and Philip II.  
The Civil War, Franco's dictatorship, and Spain's democracy.
  5. Holidays and Folklore  
National holidays of importance: Christmas, Reyes, Holy Week  
Local holidays/festivals: Feria de Sevilla, Fallas de Valencia, San Fermines  
Bullfighting  
Flamenco
  6. Gastronomy: Typical dishes from different parts of Spain
  7. Spanish Art: paintings, architecture, and film.
- \*N.B. The actual syllabus may follow a different order.

### Grading

- |     |                                  |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 30% | Midterm exam                     |
| 40% | Final exam                       |
| 30% | Homework and class participation |

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. You have 3 unexcused absences without affecting your grade. Tardiness to class is considered ½ an unexcused absence.

### Changes

You may request to change your level (beginner, intermediate, advanced) ONLY during the first week of classes. You are not allowed to drop a class anytime after the first week of classes.