

University at Albany, SUNY
Madrid Program
España: Perspectivas Sociales y Psicológicas
(Spain: Social and Psychological Perspectives)

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: Spanish

DESCRIPTION: In this course, students explore the experience of living in Spain from a cross-cultural perspective. What makes living and studying in Spain exciting, disappointing, unbearable, and enriching by turns? Students study the process of cultural adaptation as a sociological and personal phenomenon, as well as important differences in social norms and expectations, aspects of daily life, and non-linguistic and para-linguistic features of communication. Readings are assigned from the core text and additional sources. In addition to the content aspect, students have the opportunity to focus on the process aspect of their adaptation through class exercises and writing. Finally, each student is required to design and carry out a field research project on a feature of culture or cultural adaptation that especially interests him/her. After defining an area of interest, the student will write a proposal, carry out interviews with host nationals, document his/her research, connect it to his/her learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom, and draw conclusions.

TOPICS:

- Food and eating rituals
- Health, illness and death
- Home and family
- Sexuality
- Changing roles of man and women
- Drugs and alcohol
- The use of space
- Monochronism vs. polychronism
- Education
- Religion
- Celebrations
- Dress
- Work - the civil servant mindset
- Work - a cross-cultural view of motivation
- The arts
- TV and radio
- The cross-cultural dimension of language teaching
- How Spaniards view other cultures

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Brislin, Richard W. and Yoshida, Tomoko, editors. *Improving Intercultural Interactions*
Calvo, Buezas. *Crece el racismo, también la solidaridad*
Casse, Pierre. *Training for the Cross-Cultural Mind*
Casse, Pierre. *Training for the Multicultural Manager*
Hooper, John. *The New Spaniards*
Luce, Louise Fiber and Smith, Elise C., editors. *Towards Internationalism*

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