

Valencia Summer Program - AIP
SPAIN: A CULTURAL STUDY

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English/Spanish

DESCRIPTION: One of the underlying premises of the course is that culture does not deal simply in concrete facts. Rather, it is something to be observed and experienced. Often, one's observations need to be reflected upon before they can be formulated into clear thoughts and opinions. Thus, the course attempts to equip the student with an appreciation of some of the historical, political, and social factors which have influenced and/or impacted Spanish society, together with an awareness of current and future trends in the country, as well as providing an opportunity for reflective consideration. In short, it aims to help the student to not only observe but also to participate more fully in Spanish daily life.

TOPICS: Students will be expected to understand and speak confidently about the following aspects of Spanish culture.

- the political structure of modern Spain, and the cultural and economic differences in the distinct communities
- Spanish life and culture, including the new educational system applied under the Ley de Ordenación General del Sistema Educativo, of the Ministry of Education and Science
- the importance of and the tradition behind popular festivals in Spain
- Spanish music
- Spanish youth
- the different languages of Spain: castellano as a language among others, valenciano, catalán, gallego and vasco
- The Spanish governmental system: political parties and their policies
- The heritage of invading populations in Valencia
- Important historical and monuments of historical and cultural importance in the cities and other areas of Valencia
- Agriculture and Fishing in the Valencian region
- Popular Festivals in Valencia and the rest of Spain
- The role of the press in modern Spain
- Traditional Spanish music
- Spanish cinema of today
- The Spanish educational system after the reforms
- Introduction to Spanish painting and literature

EVALUATION: There are several forms of evaluation carried out simultaneously so that, upon finishing the course, each student is aware of his/her stronger and weaker points:

- **Continuous assessment** - essays and the homework assignments are used when calculating the final mark.

- **Written exams** - 1 written exam per week that evaluates the student's knowledge of the units that have been seen during the week.
- **Project work** - One project to be carried out over the course of the month.
- **Final exam** - a written exam that evaluates the student's knowledge of the subject.

POST-PROGRAM ANALYSIS: At the end of the course, a report is prepared on the progress made by each student during the program and a grade is issued based on the above-mentioned evaluations. The report contains comments from instructors on contributions in class, as well as suggestions for further work that could be carried out. These comments, along with actual numeric grades, are combined to form the final grade for the course.