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**RPOS 348 - Comparative Urban Politics: Madrid and New York
(GINS 398-0113, Class # 2422)**

Classroom Instruction: M-F 12 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-5:30 pm

Field visits and activities: Between 9-11:30 am and 5:30-7:30 pm as needed.

Learning Objectives

In this course students will:

1. Learn about and evaluate the historical and political narratives that explain urban politics and social movements, comparing the experiences of Madrid and New York.
2. Students will learn about the different ways in which political science approaches the question of urban politics compared to other disciplinary approaches. They will also learn how interdisciplinary approaches can be used to better understand social movements.
3. Using short posts and a class project students will exercise and hone writing and critical thinking skills through reflective summaries and thesis formulation, documentation, analysis and argument. They will exercise and hone these skills through the identification and interrogation of the assumptions, values, evidence, conclusions, and implications of different types of scholarly sources and will receive individual and collective feedback from oral presentations. They will also exercise critical thinking skills through observation, processing of sense data and ideas, and reflection.

Course Description

This course will examine urban social movements focusing on the political differences and similarities between Madrid and New York. The comparative framework will be set through pre-program readings about social movements in general and in the United States in particular. Then we will examine urban politics in Madrid and New York from different angles, with an emphasis on neighborhood organizations and citywide social movements. Even though American social movements became prominent during the 1960s, we will focus our review during the period from 1975 to the present; 1975 marks the end of the Francisco Franco dictatorship and the beginning of a transition to democracy in Spain. Classroom instruction will be blended with urban political ethnography exercises in some of Madrid's neighborhoods and plazas, a visit to Madrid's municipal museum, and meetings with social and political activists. If there is an opportunity to do so, we will coordinate to watch at least one cognate film in the distinctively urban way offered by Cine Doré, Filmoteca Española. As part of its cultural immersion component, the course includes a visit to Salamanca.

Required Readings and Visual Materials

All on Blackboard. See Schedule below.

Course Requirements

I. Reaction Posts (50% of the final grade) – Two kinds of posts are required: 1. Reading and documentary or film-based: These should provide the script for your participation in the discussion of assigned materials. Follow the guidelines in learning objective number three. Since the required posts are

short, not all of them have to include all aspects of the outlined guidelines. At a minimum, focus on any aspect of the readings or documentaries that you find interesting, that you didn't know about previously, and/or that triggers a question or questions you would like addressed in class. 2. Event based: These will be reactions and reflections written after site visits, ethnographic exercises, excursions and other activities if appropriate. There is an example of field notes on Blackboard that you should review in order to write your own field notes for scheduled ethnographic exercises. **The minimum required for each post is 150 words, unless otherwise indicated.**

The pre-program readings posts will not be graded. Feedback will be provided for these posts to make sure that subsequent posts follow the guidelines outlined here and in learning objective number three. After that, posts will be graded and the three lowest graded posts will be dropped from the grade tabulation.

Each post will be graded A-E. The final grade for this requirement will be the average grade from all the posts. Grades shall be weighted as follows: $A = 4.00$, $A- = 3.70$, $B+ = 3.30$, $B = 3.00$, $B- = 2.70$, $C+ = 2.30$, $C = 2.00$, $C- = 1.70$, $D+ = 1.30$, $D = 1.00$, $D- = 0.70$, and $E = 0.00$.

Posts will be submitted electronically using the journal tool on Blackboard the day before class no later than 11:59 pm. Pre-program posts must be submitted on or before June 2.

II. Class Participation (30% of the final grade) – Everyone will be expected to contribute to our class discussions. Participation should demonstrate a careful and thoughtful review of the assigned materials. Class participation will be graded A-E.

III. Project and Class Presentation (20% of the final grade) – Your project can reflect your urban experience in Madrid or it can combine elements of your experience with a straightforward academic exercise. The project should be germane in some way to the topic of urban politics/social movements. Possibilities include an interview, a video project, a photo essay, a book review, a reflective journal, or a review essay. Your project must be discussed with me and approved no later than June 6. Projects and class presentations will be graded A-E as a unit.

Grading

The course is graded A-E. The course grade will be tabulated according to the percentages for each requirement using the grade scale below.

Score Grade Scale				
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	E 0-59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

For example, the reaction posts are worth 50% of the course grade. If your cumulative grade is A- multiply .50 (50%) by 92 (I will use the top score for all tabulations) and you'll see that you earned 46 points out of the total 50 points possible for this requirement; that is also 46 points towards the total of 100 for the course. The course grade will be tabulated according to this procedure.

Office Hours

M-F, informally or by appointment.

Schedule

Session B: COMPARATIVE URBAN POLITICS	
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JUNE		
DATE	ACTIVITIES	Contact Hours
May 1- June 2	Pre-program readings: "A Movement Society: Contentious Politics for a New Century;" "The Institutionalization of Protest in the United States;" "Civil Society and the Consolidation of Democracy in Spain;" "The Free Culture and 15M Movements in Spain" Pre-program documentaries: "Mass Appeal: Collective Behavior and Social Movements;" and "15M: Excellent. A Wake-Up Call. Important" Read, watch, and post reactions on Blackboard on or before June 2.	
S 2	Arrive in Madrid from USA. Orientation, welcome dinner, and walking tour. 5:00 pm, El Faro.	
M 3	Discussion of pre-program readings: "A Movement Society: Contentious Politics for a New Century;" "The Institutionalization of Protest in the United States." "Civil Society and the Consolidation of Democracy in Spain" Discussion of class projects. 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm	3
	Site Visit: Atocha Memorial 5:00-6:30 pm	1.5
T 4	Discussion of pre-program documentaries: "Mass Appeal: Collective Behavior and Social Movements;" and "15M: Excellent. A Wake-Up Call. Important" Discussion of pre-program reading: "The Free Culture and 15M Movements in Spain" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm	2
	Site Visits: Museo Municipal; Reina Sofia: Guernica 3:30-6:30 pm.	3
W 5	Discussion of readings: "Occupy Wall Street;" "Paint Bombs;" "The Indignados of Spain: A Precedent to Occupy Wall Street" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm	3
	Site Visit: Guided tour of Palacio de Cibeles (confirmed) Debriefing: Paseo del Prado 5:45-6:45 pm	1
	Cultural Immersion Activity (Cooking or Flamenco Class) 8:00 pm Site TBD	
TH 6	Discussion of readings: "Castells Madrid 1;" "Castells Madrid 2;" Castells Madrid 3" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-4:30	3
	Site Visits: Asociación de Vecinos La Corrala; Centro Social (re)Ocupado La Quimera Debriefing: Plaza de los Cabestreros 5:30-8:30 pm.	3
F 7	Discussion of Reading: "Social Movements Spain" at El Faro 10:00-11:00 am at Sala de Juntas, El Faro (To be confirmed)	1
	Trip to Salamanca June 7-9 Depart 11:30 am Visit to Valle de Los Caídos and El Escorial Meeting with Mayor or representative or Federación de Ciudadanos de Salamanca (To be confirmed)	2.5

M 10	Readings: "Social Movements Surveillance;" "Social Movements Digital;" "We are not on Facebook" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-4:30	3
	Site Visit: Federacion Regional de Asociaciones Vecinales (To be confirmed)	2
	Site Visit: Ayuntamiento Session (To be confirmed)	1
T 11	Readings: "Social Movements Decline in Spain;" "Movements Left and Right: Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street in the Obama Era;" "Politics in Spain: A Case of Monitory Democracy" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-4:30	3
	Site Visit: Afroconciencia (confirmed) Time 5:00-7:00 pm	2
W 12	Readings: "The Discreet Charm of the Revolution;" "Over There: The Occupiers Seen from Europe;" "Feminisms and the 15M Movement in Spain" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm	3
	Ethnographic exercise: Site TBD 5:00-6:30 pm	1.5
	Cultural Immersion Activity (Cooking or Flamenco Class) 8:00 pm, site TBD	
TH 13	Readings: "Occupying the #Hotel Madrid: A Laboratory for Urban Resistance;" "Can Urban Regimes Travel in Time and Space? Urban Regime Theory, Governance Theory, and Comparative Urban Politics" 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm	2
	Ethnographic exercise: Site TBD 4:30-7:00 pm	2.5
F 14	Project Presentations 12:00-2:00 pm and 3:30-5:00 pm	3.5
	Total Contact Hours	46.5
SAT 15	Free day in Madrid	
S 16	Depart for the U.S. Check out time at El Faro is anytime before noon.	