Course description

In this course, Spanish culture will be taught through visits to museums and cultural walks in the morning, and meetings in the classroom during the afternoon.

Every day, students will visit a museum or walk around the city with one of the instructors, gaining deep insight into Spanish civilization and culture. As a result of the site visits and discussions, the academic learning of the students will be directly related to their experience of the city.

Class work will focus on analyzing readings, and films by Spanish authors. Films by important Spanish directors such as Luis Buñuel and Pedro Almodóvar will be screened and analyzed, as well as the novels, essays and short stories in which some of these films are inspired. By the end of the course, students will better understand the different periods of the social and cultural history of Spain through a detailed analysis and in-class discussions of some of the most important works of the Spanish culture.

Readings

Since the students will meet in the morning and in the afternoon with the instructors during the two weeks of their stay in Madrid, they will have to do the main part of their readings before arriving in Madrid. This will have the advantage of providing them with a prior knowledge of Spain that will help the students enjoy more of their days in this country.

Readings before arrival

Introduction to the History of Spain https://www.britannica.com/place/Spain/Castilian
Carr, Raymond (ed). *Spain: A History*. Oxford University Press, 2000. This book can be bought online in various sites like Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**
A breakdown of how the final course grade is calculated is provided below:
Exam : 30%
Participation: 20% - Assistance to class is mandatory and the absences without medical cause will affect seriously the grade of participation.
Research paper: 50% - This paper will be send by “e mail” 2 weeks after the end of the term, in a way that the students have enough time to research.

**GRADING SCALE:**
A 95-100
A- 90-94
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C- 70-72
D+ 67-69
D 61-66
E below 60

**COURSE SESSIONS**

**Session 1**
Morning Archeological Museum: Introduction to the History of Spain.
Afternoon Introduction to the course. Fragment of *The Poem of the Cid*.

**Session 2**
Morning Museo del Prado: Middle Ages and Renaissance.
Afternoon Cervantes: fragment of *The Ingenious Nobleman Sir Quixote of La Mancha*.

**Session 3**
Morning Museo del Prado: Velázquez and Goya.

**Session 4**
Morning Academia de Bellas Artes: Various Periods.
Afternoon Fragment of *Death and Money in the Afternoon: A History of the Spanish Bullfight* by Adrian Shubert.
Session 5
Morning: Museo Lázaro Galdiano

EXAM

Session 6
Morning: Museo Thyssen: Various periods.
Afternoon: “La lengua de las mariposas”, short story by Manuel Rivas.
Movie: La lengua de las mariposas, directed by José Luis Cuerda.

Session 7
Morning: Museo Reina Sofía: The Turn of the Century (XIXth-XXth)
Afternoon: Homage to Catalonia by George Orwell.

Session 8
Morning: Museo Reina Sofía: Picasso and Dalí.

Session 9
Morning: La Castellana: Urbanism of last decades.
Afternoon: Fragment of the play Paradise Lost: Darwin’s Tortoise by Juan Mayorga. Movie: Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios, directed by Pedro Almodóvar.

FINAL PAPER DUE ON JUNE, 29.