



UALBANY

State University of New York

Program in Madrid

Spanish Culture and Civilization through Literature and Visual Arts

Instructors: Maribel García and José Carlos Vela.

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
Afternoon

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

Session 2

Morning
Afternoon

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

Session 3

Morning
Afternoon

Museo del Prado: Velázquez and Goya.
Bartolomé de las Casas: fragment of *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*. Movie: *También la lluvia*, directed by Icíar Bollaín.

Session 4

Morning
Afternoon

Academia de Bellas Artes: Various Periods.
Fragment of *Death and Money in the Afternoon: A History of the Spanish Bullfight* by Adrian Shubert.

Session 5

Morning

Museo Lázaro Galdiano

Afternoon

"The White Hair" short story by Emilia Pardo Bazán.

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.

Afternoon

Selected poems by Federico García Lorca. Movies: overview of some films directed by Luis Buñuel.

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.