

**Valencia Semester Program - AIP  
HISTORY OF SPAIN**

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**DESCRIPTION:** This course will begin with an introduction to the early history of Spain. In the fall semester, students will be acquainted with the important events of the Prehistoric Stage, the first settlers of the peninsula, the Roman invasion, the Germanic times, the Arabic invasion, the Reconquest, the catholic monarchs and the rise and fall of the Spanish Empire. In addition, students will be introduced to the more recent events in the history of the country, those dealing with the transition from a fascist dictatorship to a democracy (1975-2003).

In the spring semester, students will be introduced to the history of Spain from 1700 to modern times. Students will be acquainted with important events of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as current events. Since the topics and scope of the class vary from semester to semester, this course may be repeated for credit. The aim is that through the study of these epochs of Spanish history, the students will become more familiar with the most representative aspects of modern Spanish society.

**TOPICS:**

**Fall Semester**

1. Introduction to Spain.
2. In the Beginning was Iberia:
  - a. Prehistoric Stage
  - b. First Settlers: Celts, Iberians, Phoenicians, and Carthaginians
3. The Romans were here:
  - a. Invasion and civilization
4. Medieval Spain
  - a. The Germanic tribes
  - b. The Arabic invasion
5. Moros y Cristianos
  - a. The Reconquest of the peninsula
6. Birth of the Spanish World
  - a. The Catholic monarchs
  - b. The conquest of Granada
  - c. The discovery of America
  - d. Charles I: The birth of the Spanish Empire
7. Ecstasy and Agony
  - a. Philip II
  - b. Philip III: the 'validos'
  - c. The Baroque period: fall of the empire

## Spring Semester

1. Introduction to the history of Spain
  - a. First inhabitants
  - b. The first invaders
  - c. The Roman time (218 BC - 409 AD)
  - d. Medieval Spain: the Visigoths (409 - 711)
  - e. Moorish period and Reconquest (711 - 1492)
  - f. Castilla and Aragón, birth of the Spanish world
  - g. Fall of the Empire
2. The French Century
  - a. War of Spanish Succession
  - b. The Enlightenment
  - c. The Napoleonic Era
3. Liberal Spain
  - a. The Cádiz Cortes
  - b. Rule by Pronunciamiento
  - c. Liberal Rule
4. Best of Times, Worst of Times
  - a. The Cuban Disaster and the "Generation of 1898:
  - b. The African War and the Authoritarian Regime of Miguel Primo de Rivera
  - c. Republican Spain
5. The Spanish Civil War
6. The Age of Franco
  - a. Franco's Political System
  - b. Policies, Programs, and Growing Popular Unrest
  - c. Foreign Policy under Franco
6. Contemporary Spain
  - a. Transition to Democracy
  - b. Disenchantment with UCD Leadership
  - c. Growth of the PSOE and the 1982 Elections
  - d. Spanish Foreign Policy in the Post-Franco Period
  - e. Spain from 1996 to today

### **EVALUATION:**

Students are expected to actively participate in class (20%). The exams will be related to the subjects covered in class during the semester. The first test will be worth 25% and the final exam will be worth 25% of the final grade. Students will submit essays related to the subjects covered in class during the semester. The teacher will then go through corrections of each essay and the completion of this work will contribute towards the final grade (30%). Class attendance is regarded as an obligation as well as a privilege, and all students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes in which they are enrolled. Three absences will decrease the final grade by 10% and three tardies will be considered as one absence.

### **TEXT:**

*The Story of Spain*. Mark Williams, Santana Books.