

SEVI 341: Spanish Art and Culture

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Course Description

This course will give students thorough knowledge and understanding of the past and present situation of Spain, covering political, economic and social aspects as well as cultural aspects such as art, religion, literature, theater and sciences.

In general, this will be the first time students have taken a Spanish culture course while in Spain. Most students have their own concept of Spain's culture based solely on more international aspects, such as literature, society and gastronomy.

Objectives

- To understand the chronological evolution of Spain, from prehistoric times to the present, in order to better understand how a mix of many different cultures has shaped Spain's "personality" and culture
- Eliminate certain clichés for which Spain may be known, and instead present a more informed picture of Spain as a receiver and transmitter of culture, in a broader sense
- Providing students with knowledge about the various historical figures and events necessary to understanding the history of Spain (and sometimes that of Europe as a whole), introducing them to the most significant (both positive and negative) aspects of its history.
- Highlight the position Spain currently occupies in the world, emphasizing its status as a Member State of the European Union

Methodology

The course will be taught based on three basic methods: thematic lectures, practical classes, and tutoring. The thematic lectures will be lectures given by the professor, but in a forum-like format in which students are encouraged to participate. The practical classes will be based on visualization of didactic materials such as films, powerpoints, etc. and time allowing, practical visits to monuments related to subject matter. Tutoring will be available on an additional basis to assist students in a more individualized way.

Contents

- 1. Introductory Topics**
 - a. Introduction to the geography and culture of Spain
 - b. The political system of Spain
- 2. From Prehistory to Medieval Spain**
 - a. Prehistory and Protohistory
 - b. Roman Hispania
 - c. Islam
 - d. The peninsular Christian kingdoms

- e. Medieval Art
- 3. Spain of the Modern Age**
 - a. Spain under the Catholic Kings
 - b. The first Hapsburgs: from Juana I to Felipe II
 - c. Empire: the “Era of Discoveries”
 - d. The “Austrias Menores”: from Felipe III to Carlos II
 - e. Renaissance and Baroque Spanish art and literature
 - f. The 18th Century: the first Bourbons
- 4. Contemporary Spain**
 - a. The Enlightenment and Neoclassicism
 - b. The 19th Century
 - c. 19th Century Art
 - d. The 20th Century
 - e. Art and Culture: from the first avant-garde artists to the new millennium
 - f. Current politics, economy and society of Spain

Schedule

Day 1	General Introduction
Day 2	Introduction to the Geography and Culture of Spain Quesada, pages 13-20, and texts in coursepack
Day 3	The Political System in Spain Texts in coursepack Visit to the Cathedral of Sevilla
Day 4	Visit to the Real Alcázar of Sevilla
Day 5	Prehistory and Protohistory Quesada, pages 23-27 and Abrantes, pages 13-33
Day 6	Roman Hispania Quesada, pages 27-30 and Abrantes, pages 35-49
Day 7	Islam Quesada, pages 40, 59-61
Day 8	Visit to the Antiquarium and the Metropol Parasol of Sevilla
Day 9	Islamic Art Quesada, pages 61-64 and Abrantes, pages 59-75
Day 10	The Christian Middle Ages

	Quesada, pages 41-56
Day 11	Christian Medieval Art: Romanesque and Gothic Abrantes, pages 87-127
Day 12	Spain under the Catholic Kings Quesada, pages 69-74
Day 13	The Reign of Juana I “La Loca” (I) Texts in coursepack
Day 14	The Reign of Juana I “La Loca” (II) Texts in coursepack
Day 15	Spain and America: the “Era of Discoveries” Texts in coursepack
Day 16	EXAM I Material from “Introduction to the geography...” through “Spain under the Catholic Kings”
Day 17	Carlos I of Spain and V of Germany Texts from coursepack
Day 18	The Religious Crisis in Modern Spain: from the Inquisition to Protestantism Texts from coursepack
Day 19	Spain of Felipe II Texts from coursepack
Day 20	Spanish Renaissance Architecture Abrantes, pages 135-146
Day 21	Spanish Renaissance Sculpture and Painting Abrantes, pages 147-157
Day 22	The 17 th Century: Politics, Economy and Society Quesada, pages 97-100
Day 23	Baroque Art Abrantes, pages 159-171
Day 24	Velázquez and Murillo Abrantes, pages 172-179
Day 25	The 18 th Century and the Enlightenment

	Quesada, pages 111-119 and texts from the course pack
Day 26	Academicism and Neoclassicism Francisco de Goya Abrantes, pages 183-200
Day 27	EXAM II Material from “The Reign of Juana I “La Loca” through “The 18 th Century and the Enlightenment”
Day 28	The 19 th Century: Politics, Economy and Society (I) Quesada, pages 127-131
Day 29	The 19 th Century: Politics, Economy and Society (II) Architecture of the 19 th Century: from Historicism to Antoni Gaudí Quesada, pages 127-131 and Abrantes, pages 203-205 and 217-221
Day 30	Art and Literature of the 19 th Century Quesada, pages 131-144 and Abrantes, pages 203-212
Day 31	The 20 th Century (I): the beginnings of the Civil War Texts from coursepack
Day 32	The 20 th Century (II): the Francoist decades Quesada pages 183-185 and texts from the course pack
Day 33	The 20 th Century (II): the Francoist decades Quesada pages 183-185 and texts from the course pack
Day 34	The 20 th Century (III): the Spanish Transition Spanish Politics, Economy and Society (1975-1996) Quesada pages 186-7 and 200-211
Day 35	Contemporary Spanish Politics, Economy and Society (1996-2012) Quesada pages 186-7 and 200-211
Day 36	Visit to the Plaza de España and Pavilions of the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929 (9:15) Texts from coursepack
Day 37	Architecture, Sculpture and Painting of the 20 th Century Texts from coursepack
Day 38	Pablo Ruiz Picasso Abrantes, pages 223-232 and texts from coursepack
Day 39	Surrealism: Luís Buñuel, Joan Miró and Salvador Dalí

	Abrantes, pages 233-241 and texts from coursepack
Day 40	Cultural Evolution of Spain in the 20 th Century Abrantes, pages 241-243, Quesada pages 156-171 and texts from coursepack
Day 41	EXAM III Material from “Academicism and Neoclassicism” through “Cultural Evolution of Spain in the 20 th Century”

Grading

- Three midterm exams, which will in total make up **60% of the final grade**. The exams will consist of different sections including short answer, relationship of terms, and short definitions, as well as essay options
- In order to be able to take the exams, each student must first turn in a certain number of questionnaires referring to the recommended readings for each topics. These, combined with other possible short monographic works, will make up **10% of the final grade**. Students will have a week to turn in these questionnaires and works after they are assigned.
- Three required papers, one on the subject matter for each respective midterm exam. These papers allow students to demonstrate their acquired knowledge through “field investigations.” The subjects of the papers will be the following (students may choose one of the two options presented for each cycle of the course:
 - **First cycle (Deadline: February 16)**
 - “Sevillan urbanism in antiquity and in the Middle Ages”
 - This will require addition of maps and photographs, as well as students’ observations of the squares and streets of the historical center of the city
 - “Daily life in Ancient Rome”
 - Students will visit the Provincial Archaeological Museum, where they exhibit domestic, scientific and commercial tools related to Roman Hispania. From that visit, and based on material learned in class, students must create a composition on the customs of the society of that time
 - **Second cycle (Deadline: March 16)**
 - “Religion and Society in Spain of the Renaissance and the Baroque”
 - Students will visit the interpretation center on the Spanish Inquisition, established in the archaeological ruins of the San Jorge Castle
 - “Art, society and faith: Social institutions in Baroque Spain under the influence of the Counter-Reformation”
 - In order to contribute to their knowledge of how the Church and the State organized their social institutions at the time, they must visit the facilities of the Hospital of the Holy Charity of Seville, which will serve to analyze both the

Baroque art of the city as well as the social services imposed since the 16th century

- **Third cycle (Deadline: April 28)**
 - “Sevillan urbanism of the 19th Century”
 - Providing maps and photographs, and after visiting different enclaves of the city, students will analyze the effects of the urban development of Seville of that century, as well as the main transformations of the historic center
 - “Current Heritage: Conservation and modernization”
 - Students will visit the Cartuja Monastery of Santa María de las Cuevas and the Andalusian Center of Contemporary Art, which will allow them to analyze the conservation of archaeological and architectural remains of the past as well as one of the main museums of Spanish Contemporary Art
- These papers will each be 3-4 pages (not counting maps or photographs). They must be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font. The papers must include not only information cited from class texts, websites, newspapers, etc. but also personal opinions of the students regarding the subject matter.
- Papers must be turned in in printed form – the professor will not accept them by email
- All of the papers will make up **30% of the final grade**

Classroom Rules

- A maximum of three unexcused absences will be allowed during the course. After the third absence, each additional absence will result in one point removed from the final grade
- Both visits to monuments and classes will count the same in terms of absences
- The exams and quizzes that are scheduled for the class cannot be moved for personal reasons (private trips, family visits, etc.)
- In the event that a student cannot attend class on a day that an exam or quiz is scheduled, they must make it up at the end of the course, on a day to be determined
- Eating is not allowed in the classroom, nor is the use of laptops, electronic tablets, mobile phones, etc.

Bibliography

Students will use during the course, as their basic bibliography, the following texts:

- Abrantes, Ricardo; Fernández, Araceli; Manzarbeitia, Santiago. *Arte Español para Extranjeros*. Madrid: Editorial Nerea, 2004. ISBN 84-89569-36-3 (students will be able to borrow this from the program)
- Díaz Buiza, Fernando. *Coursepack of photocopied texts and exercise* (students will buy this at the start of the course)
- Quesada, Sebastián. *Curso de Civilización Española*. Madrid: SGEL, 2002. ISBN 84-7143-489-X (students will be able to borrow this from the program)

Additional Information

- All students are required to participate in the scheduled activities of the course (excursions, guided visits, etc.)
- The professor will have office hours that will be announced the first day of class
- Because of local holidays, there will not be class on:
 - February 29 (Día de Andalucía)
 - May 2 (Día del Trabajo)
 - March 20-27 (Semana Santa)
 - April 11-17 (Feria de Abril)