



FALL 2018 - Course List, Description and Syllabi

General Level - All courses taught in Spanish (5 semester college – level Spanish is required)

Please note: The following list of classes is for informational purposes only.

[GA-01 Culture and Society in Present-Day Spain](#)

[GA-01 Cultura y Sociedad en la España Actual – Course syllabus in Spanish](#)

To foreground Spain's cultural plurality, while analyzing the reasons for this diversity, as well as for the prolific range of manifestations through which it is expressed.

[GA-04 Cultural Anthropology of Latin America](#)

[GA-04 Antropología Cultural de América Latina– Course syllabus in Spanish](#)

The aim of this Course is to explore the current model of inter-ethnic relations in Latin America as a fundamental aspect of its present-day social reality. The syllabus will be centred on the co-existence of two well-defined strategies: a) the domination of the indigenous population by national elites and b) the resistance practised by ethnic groups. The content of class sessions will be based on the explanation of basic theoretical concepts.

[GA-05 The Political Construction of the European Union](#)

[GA-05 La Construcción Política de la Unión Europea – Course syllabus in Spanish](#)

To make students aware of the historical milestones within the process of European construction. As the Course develops, reflexion upon the idea of Europe will be encouraged, as well as upon how to approach this same historical process from the perspective of the Social Sciences and Historiography, upon its evolution, upon the study of its institutional make-up, and upon the existing links between Spain and Europe.

With this basis in mind, the aim is to enable students: to reflect critically upon the key issues involved in the process of European construction; to acquire an understanding of, and be capable of analyzing, with rigor, the circumstances affecting this same process at the present time; to become aware of the values upon which the foundations of European construction are based.



[GA-07 Flamenco: Cultural Expression of Andalucía](#)

[GA-07 El Flamenco: Expresión Cultural de Andalucía – Course syllabus in Spanish](#)

Flamenco will be broached as a cultural phenomenon in its widest sense; i.e., taking into account the elements that link it with music, social interaction, and communication, as well as its display of lyricism, whilst not forgetting its connections with contexts related to work, ritual and festive occasions. As a result of this approach, flamenco is viewed as a manifestation which goes beyond the strictly artistic, whilst possessing the capacity to generate social identity, in the case of Andalucía, on the basis of ethnic factors, but not exclusively so. In order to illustrate this plan of action, use will be made of a historically based analysis, to be able to carry out a reconstruction of the major processes by means of which, up until the present day, flamenco has emerged as a cultural manifestation in the southern part of Peninsular Spain. The objective of the first part of the course is to bring students who are unfamiliar with flamenco music, into contact with its key features. This will enable them to appreciate flamenco as a musical language and as a communicative model with its own specific characteristics. Thereafter, the same will be done with regard to Flamenco as a dance. In the second section, students will learn about the different phases that have contributed to the history of flamenco, whilst they will also be introduced to debates concerning its interaction with a range of cultural traditions, some of which remain distanced in time and space. This process will allow students to identify and understand the historical roots of the beginnings of flamenco in Andalucía, together with an awareness, although cursory, of the debates that have encouraged a specialised biography on the historical and cultural starting point of flamenco. Finally, the third section will focus on the characteristics of flamenco as an expression of social interaction and a communicative model, while its current validity in contemporary society, within diverse social and festive contexts, is scrutinized, along with the key characteristics of its lyrics as a manifestation of poetic art.

[GA-17 Women in the History of Latin America](#)

[GA-17 Mujeres en la Historia de América – Course syllabus in Spanish](#)

The aim of this Course is the study of the role of women during the different stages of the history of Latin America, using as a point of departure the Continent's indigenous cultures, already in existence prior to any European presence, and on through the colonial period into the first republican phase, until the twenty-first century is reached



[GA-19 Photography: An Approach to History, Genres and Contemporary Practice](#)

[GA-19 Fotografía. Teoría, Historia y Técnica Fotográfica – Course syllabus in Spanish](#)

This Course combines a theoretical and practical approach to the phenomenon of the photographic.

From the first notions provided, up to the conclusions presented at the close, students will be involved in a wide range of photographic practices linked with the major photographic genre types. The Course's practical character will be backed up by sessions based on the history and theory of Photography as a framework for understanding the different uses, genre types and approaches to the photographic medium which exist, as well as a way of encouraging an analytical reading of contemporary photographic-based pictures.

Specific attention will be paid to Photography as a contemporary creative art form within the Spanish context.

[GA-24 The World of Classical Antiquity in Contemporary Popular Culture](#)

[GA-24 El Mundo Clásico en la Cultura Popular Contemporánea](#)

This Course gives rise to reflection upon the impact of, as well as the present-dayness of, Antiquity in contemporary popular culture. This subject-matter will be dealt with from as an inclusive a perspective as possible, while taking into account not only those genres which always tend to be considered in this regard, such as cinema, comic books, and historical novels, but also fantasy fiction, science fiction, war games, and role play. This undertaking involves furnishing a ground-breaking vision of the place that the Ancient World continues to hold in contemporary culture, together with the way in which these same mass-media phenomena shape the very reconstruction of the past within university-based studies. Likewise, this Course aims to provide an overview of the possibilities these same mass-media phenomena provide as didactic instruments which generate knowledge concerning the Ancient World.

[GA-25 Initiation to the Practice of Flamenco](#)

[GA-25 Iniciación a la Práctica del Flamenco](#)

The flamenco-appreciative audience is not usually a mere passive spectator. To fully understand and enjoy a flamenco performance, or even to participate in an improvised get-together, it is essential to be knowledgeable, with regard to its practical dimension, about the language of song (cante), dance (baile) and guitar music (toque). One of the exclusive characteristics of flamenco is its percussive accompaniment with hand-clapping by using one's palms, as well as feet tapping, where the performer-participant has to master the complex rhythmic language of this Andalusian art. In the course of a performance, the hand-clappers have the function of maintaining the base-line of the rhythm (rhythmic cycles), while, at the same time, they must be able to react to the stretches of improvisation in which the other performers (the



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singer, the guitarist, and the dancer) may become involved, since it is those same handclappers constitute the link among the three disciplines.