



SAIIE

"Your Life Experience; Your Education"



UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN - PLATTEVILLE

Spanish Culture & Civilization

Course: SOC 3620.

Prerequisites: None

Language: English

Contact hours: 42

Credits: 3

Professor: Virginia Álvarez

E-mail: valvarez@saiie.com

Term: Summer

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES.

This course is aimed at studying characteristic features of Spanish life, culture and personality. Historical and cultural references will be treated to make students understand better the Spanish culture and civilization. Understanding a culture, especially when it is as complex as Spain's, requires an insight into the historical circumstances that have shaped it. This course targets a number of historical, traditional and social aspects that always point towards the present and to the most significant and emblematic features of Spain's current reality.

Class attendance together with assigned readings, handouts and notes taken in class, will help students to get the aims of this course. Students are expected to participate expressing their opinions based on their daily experience in Spain.

2. NORMS IN CLASS

As far as punctuality is concerned no students will be allowed in class once it has begun. Attendance is mandatory and it will be taken at each class meeting. If a student has more than 1 unjustified absences at the end of the course his/her final grading will be reduced by 5% with each unjustified absence.

Attendance and punctuality are expected and laxity in these areas will have a negative effect.

The dates of the exams, quizzes, homework, papers, etc, may not be changed, except for illness and only with a written explanation from a medical doctor.

No travel justifications or excuses will be accepted.

In class is not allowed eating or drinking.

Plagiarism or cheating is sanctioned with a grade of F (zero) for the work involved, if the student cheats for a second time, that person will receive F (zero) in the class.

If a student cheats in an exam, automatically will have F (zero) in the class.

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA.



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It is expected that students will read the material before attending class, complete the homework and come prepared to discuss the text and other materials provided by the instructor during class sessions. In order to obtain their grade, the students need to do their homework and review the contents at home to enable active class participation.

There will be two written exams and two quizzes in which students will be assessed on the topics covered in each different parts of the course. The two exams and quizzes will be made up of short answers and short essays.

The students will present a written report, which follows the format of an academic paper, minimum 6 pages, in which students will work on a topic related to the course followed by a question and answer session. Some of these questions will appear on the final exam.

It is necessary for the student to show and express his/her opinion about the topic and it will be delivered orally and individually in class.

General Rules for Paper:

The required papers can be printed out or sent to the professor by e-mail. No handwritten paper will be admitted.

They **MUST BE HANDED IN ON TIME**. No unjustified delayed paper will be corrected or evaluated.

Format: Word Document (MLA) / Paper Size: A4 / Font: Arial 12 / 1.5 interline space. 6 or 7 pages (do not include pictures in the written paper) and an extra one to mention the sources.

Number each page in your written report and place your name, class code and date on the right up corner.

For example:

Welsh, Joe.

SOC 3620- P1 (P= project)

8/ 15/18

4. DATES, EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS.

Quiz 1 - 5%	TBD
Quiz 2- 5%	TBD
MID EXAM- 35%	TBD



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FINAL EXAM- 35% TBD

Final Assignment and oral report- 20% TBD

5. GRADING.

97 – 100	A+	86-83	B	72-70	C-
96 – 93	A	82-80	B-	69-67	D+
92 – 90	A-	79-77	C+	66-63	D
89 – 87	B+	76-73	C	62-60	D-
bellow 60 D-					

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Class attendance is extremely important.

Try to come prepared for every class by having completed the assigned readings. To do well on your exam and on your participation grade, it is wise to take notes on all class content, including you peer’s presentations, and to participate in class discussion. Make sure you understand the significance of the events under consideration.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REQUIRED READINGS:

There will not be a textbook. Required readings, articles and handouts will be given during the course by your teacher, to be used for discussion and examination.

A quick guide to customs and etiquette. Culture Smart Spain. 2006.

Greus, Jesús: Así vivieron en el Al- Ándalus. Grupo Anaya 2009.

Hooper, John: *The New Spaniards*. Penguin, 2004.

De los Santos, David Isa: España, ayer y hoy. Edinumen, 2012.

Amalia Balea y Pilar Ramos: *Viva la Cultura en España*. En CLAVE-Ele, 2007.



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Casasa Penélope, The Foods and Wines of Spain: Eleventh printing, February 1999.

Amorós, A: Toros y Cultura. Espasa Calpe. Madrid, 1987.

Ruiz Giménez, J.J. Aproximación a España. Cultura. Comares. Granada, 2000.

Students can use the following public libraries:

Biblioteca Infanta Elena en avda. M^a Luisa s/n

Biblioteca Central de la Universidad de Sevilla en c/ San Fernando nº 4

7. CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Introduction to the course. Overview of syllabus.

-What do students know about Spain and Spanish people?

Stereotypes.

How do we describe Americans and Spaniards?

2. The geography of Spain.

3. Gastronomy of Spain. Regional dishes.

- Mediterranean Diet.

-Visit to a traditional food market.

4. A summary from the earliest inhabitants to the Romans.

5. Islamic Spain.

6. The Christians Kingdoms and the Reconquest.

7. Spain in the 20th century.

- From dictatorship to democracy.



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- "La Movida Madrileña"
8. Regions of Spain and population.
- Language differences.
 - Economical resources.
 - Size and growth of the population.
9. Beliefs in Spain.
- Activity: Is Spain a religious country?
 - Church and State.
 - Some Catholic festivals.
 - Religious (in) tolerance: contraceptives, abortion, divorce and gay marriages.
10. Social Institutions.
- Activity: What do Spanish people think about their family values, sexual equalities and sexual changes?
 - Why young Spaniards do not leave their parent's home?
 - The family.

Family values. Marriage under Franco and marriage today. The youth.

 - Men and women Machismo. Feminism/sexual equality.
 - Domestic violence.
11. A Changing society. Immigration.
12. The Gypsies in Spain. Origen, development and characteristics of their cultural manifestation. Gypsy and flamenco.
13. Education and health.



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- Educational system in Spain. Comparing with the North American system.
- Public safety.

14. The popular fiestas in present- day Spain.

- Bullfighting: Pros and Cons.
- Summer Fiestas.

15. Attitudes and lifestyles.

Some of the topics may be changed according to the teacher and/or students necessities.