

SPANISH CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE

General Description

This course aims to explaining and studying the basic points considered to be the basis of Spanish culture. Cultural aspects of different fields will be covered and interrelated, whenever possible. At the same time a thorough and detailed study will be undertaken of the phenomena considered universally to be genuinely Spanish.

Content

1. What does it mean to be Spanish? Universality and Particularity of a Culture.
 - General information about Spain.
 - Spanish Autonomic Communities.
 - Stereotypes in Spain.
2. The Languages of Spain.
 - Spanish in the World.
 - Spanish Varieties.
3. Spanish Habits and Social Life.
 - Spanish Habits.
 - Manners and Mannerisms.
 - Social Festivities.
4. Eating and Drinking in Spain. The Mediterranean Diet.
5. The Spanish Family Structure.
 - Names and Surnames.
 - Family Models.
 - The Royal Family.
 - Childhood, Youth and Old People.
 - Education in Spain.
6. Women: The Evolution of her role in the Society.
7. Main Problems in Spain Today.
 - Terrorism.
 - Unemployment.
 - Ilegal Immigration.
8. Religion and Folklore Expressions.
9. Gypsies and Flamenco. Other Musics in Spain.
10. Bullfighting: Symbol, Rite and Metaphor.
11. Icons and Archetypes.
 - Spanish Classical Icons.
 - Protagonists Today: Cinema, Music and Fashion.

Assessment

- Attendance and class participation: 20%
- Presentation in class: 30%.
- Midterm Exam: 25%.
- Final Exam: 25%

Bibliography

- Cortés, Maximiano (2003): *Guía de usos y costumbres de España*. Madrid, Edelsa.
- Castro Barroso, Natalia (2004): *Sin Fronteras. Taller de Civilización*. Milan, La Spiga Languages.
- Hooper, John (1995): *The New Spaniards/Los Nuevos españoles*. London, Penguin Books.
- López Moreno, Cristina (2005): *España Contemporánea*. Madrid, Sgel.
- Quesada Marco, Sebastián (2001): *España siglo XXI*. Madrid, Edelsa.
- Richardson, Bill (2001): *Spanish Studies*. New Cork, Oxford University Press.