What elements define Spain’s current political situation? In addition to providing students with the paramount background knowledge about the Spanish history in the 20th century, this course focuses on the pressing debates in Spanish society after the year 2000: from the downfall of the Spanish economy to the pro-independence movement in Cataluña, from the collapse of a bipartisan system to the rise of new political and social forces. Students will be encouraged to express their ideas through debates based on readings and class lectures.

(3 credits, 45 contact hours)

Although a brief introduction about political theory and basic facts of Spanish history is given, this course is designed to give a both political and historical approach to understanding fundamental issues in the current political sphere.

Firstly, the student will trace the complicated history of the Spanish 20th Century. This way, we will examine the Spanish democratic system since dictator Francisco Franco’s death, the long road to democracy during the seventies and the eighties and the significant cultural and social transformation. We will focus on key political actors, institutions and processes, in order to get a full understanding of the current political landscape.

Secondly, the student will follow the successes and failures of contemporary Spanish society. On the one hand: the consolidation of a Parliamentary Monarchy, the process of decentralization, the advent of a broader autonomy for Catalonia and Basque Country, the joining in the European Union and the consolidation of the welfare state. On the other side of the coin, the student will study the economic breakdown in the framework of the global financial crisis, the collapse of the traditional bipartisan system, the negative impact of the austerity measures imposed by the European Union and the unresolved issues regarding Spanish violent past under Francoism.

Thirdly, the goal of this course is to introduce the students to the current debates in nowadays Spanish society. Features like the emergence of new political forces and the rise of social
and populist movements against institutional corruption will be analyzed. Finally, the renewed nationalist fervor in Catalonia will be also tackled, by studying its recent evolution from its traditional demand for an asymmetrical federalism towards a full independence from Spain. In our approach to the new political challenges, this course propose to review the situation, examine the historical roots and become familiar with the key political actors while putting all this debates into a wider global context.

### METHODOLOGY

The course is structured in both lecture and seminar formats. Each session will be based on a key question. In the first part of the session, there will be a lecture. Students will be encouraged to express their ideas and have discussions about the topic based on their readings. The professor will apply several methods and techniques: from videos, newspaper and TV and open discussions in class to a simulation of the National Elections and parliamentary debates and an academic contest.

### COURSE PREREQUISITES  EVALUATION  GENERAL COURSE POLICIES AND REGULATION

This course is oriented towards students interested in current Spanish politics. Classes will be taught in Spanish. Previous knowledge of Spanish history or politics is recommended but not mandatory.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1) To understand the recent transformations of the Spanish society in the last decades

2) To discuss current issues and put forward arguments concerning the most recent challenges in Spanish political system

3) To become familiar with the newest players and social movements in Spain and the European Union

### EVALUATION

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) Class Attendance</th>
<th>25 %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2) Term Papers</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Oral Presentations</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**4) Final Research**  

Assessment will involve two oral presentations on topics discussed in the course. At the end of each week, student will be asked to write short essays on the main political debates in contemporary Spain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GENERAL COURSE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Excused absences will only be justified by an official medical report or family emergency. Students are expected to attend all sessions. Active participation in class is required.  
- Cheating and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violation of academic honesty. The penalty for academic dishonesty is a failing grade. Avoid plagiarism by citing your sources properly.  
- Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be written according to the guidelines given. No late homework will be accepted. Students are expected to be on time and to remain for the entire class. The student who misses any part of the class is responsible for acquiring the missed information. |

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<tr>
<th><strong>REQUIRED TEXTS</strong></th>
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**Reading materials**

**In English**

  [www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357/Chislett-New-course-for-Spain-beyond-crisis.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357](www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357/Chislett-New-course-for-Spain-beyond-crisis.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357)

**In Spanish**

- VV AA. Informe sobre la democracia en España. Libros de la Catarata. Madrid, 201
- CERCAS, JAVIER, Soldados de Salamina, Random House Mondadori, Barcelona, 2015
- MUÑOZ MOLINA, ANTONIO. Todo lo que era sólido. Seix Barral, Barcelona, 2014.
**Webs:**

**In English:**

*Inside Story (Al Jazeera English) Independence for Catalonia?*

**In Spanish:**

DOS CATALUÑAS. (NETFLIX): https://www.netflix.com/title/80992039

INFORME SEMANAL (TVE): http://www.rtve.es/television/informe-semanal/

SALVADOS (LA SEXTA): http://www.lasexta.com/programas/salvados/

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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**PART I: KEY CONCEPTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPICS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Key concepts</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Section 2</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>When nations are born?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>At what point can we talk about modern Spain? Key dates in Spanish history. Unity in diversity. Many nations fit into one nation? What is a parliamentary monarchy? Main challenges of Spanish democracy. Balance of power in the Spanish democracy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Section 3 | The long road to Democracy  
The legacy of the violent past: Civil War and Franco’s Dictatorship. 1907’s transition to democracy. Rupture or reform? Historical debates over this period. Key political figures: Adolfo Suárez, the King, the role of the Army. |
| Section 4 | How to end a Dictatorship?  
| Section 5 | Social and cultural changes in democratic Spain  
New faces for a new country. Music, literature, film and fashion in the 80s and 90s. Welcome to Europe: joining NATO and European Union. |
| Section 6 | A man with many faces: F. Gonzalez and PSOE  
| Section 7 | The (new) conservatives  
| Section 8 | The formation of Spanish civil society  
Recent social movements and the defeat of the Popular Party. The rise of an organized civil society, from large-scale protests against the Iraq War in 2003 to the Platform for People Affected by Mortgages and 15-M anti-austerity movement. |
| Section 9 | New ways of being a Spaniard (or not at all)  
| Section 10 | Dealing with the Past: Spain’s Memory War. The key role of the Historical debate in nowadays Spain. What was “The pact of silence” and why this silence has |
### PART III: AFTER THE DOWNFALL
NEW PLAYERS, NEW CHALLENGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPICS</th>
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| Section 11 | The big crash  
| Section 12 | Catalonia: Europe’s new independent state?  
From asymmetrical federalism to Independence: the fast evolution of Catalanian nationalism. Key dates in Catalonia’s history. The bigger picture: the meaning of Independence inside the European Union. |
| Section 13 | What’s up with the Basque country?  
A silent victory: the decline of ETA. Euskadi in the new political landscape, broader autonomy, economic negotiation and the appeasement of pro-independence claims. |
| Section 14 | New political players (I) Podemos.  
| Section 15 | New political players (II). Ciudadanos.  
An unexpected guest: Ciudadanos (Citizens) New ideas or just new faces? A right-wing Podemos? The X Zone: political centre in Spain. Who is Albert Rivera? First steps of a party not as new as it seems. |
| Section 16 | Power in Spain. Who rules the country?  
Who really governs: behind the political arena. From the Church and the Army in the 70s to Banking system, private corporations and the Media in the 21st century. |
| Section 17 | Gender and politics: things have come a long way  
Spain’s current image. New customs. The role of the religion: is Spain still a Catholic country? A revolutionary change: the role of the women in contemporary society. Current debates: from divorce law in the 70s to abortion. The fight against gender inequality. |
| Section 18 | And now… what? The Twilight zone  