

## **PSEC 379: Spanish Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Nationalism, Populism and Social Movements**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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)

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

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:

<b>1) Class Attendance</b>	<b>25 %</b>
<b>2) Term Papers</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>3) Oral Presentations</b>	<b>25%</b>

**4) Final Research**

**25%**

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.

**GENERAL COURSE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

- 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.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

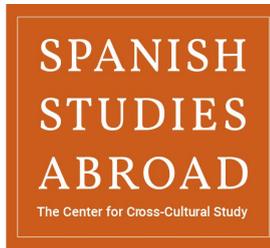
Reading materials

**In English**

- CHISLETT, WILLIAM. *Spain: what everyone needs to know*. Oxford university press, 2013
- CHISLETT, WILLIAM. *A new course for Spain: beyond the Crisis*. Real Instituto Elcano. 2016  
[www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357/Chislett-New-course-for-Spain-beyond-crisis.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357](http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357/Chislett-New-course-for-Spain-beyond-crisis.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=4042b2804bb4115fa0a5ba6e9c1af357)
- HOOPER, JOHN. *The new Spaniards*. Penguin; 2nd Revised edition, London, 2006
- MINDER, RAPHAEL. *The struggle for Catalonia. Rebel politics in Spain*. Hurst Publishers, New York, 2018.
- TREMLETT, GILLES, *Ghost of Spain. Travels Through a Country's Hidden Past*, Faber & Faber, London, 2012

**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
- GARCÍA, Lola. El naufragio. La deconstrucción del sueño independentista. Atalaya, Barcelona, 2018.
- MUÑOZ MOLINA, ANTONIO. Todo lo que era sólido. Seix Barral, Barcelona, 2014.



- SÁNCHEZ CUENCA, IGNACIO. La impotencia democrática. Sobre la crisis política en España. Libros de la Catarata, Madrid, 2014.

Webs:

**In English:**

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

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2015/09/catalonia-independence-150929000659817.html>

**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/>

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**PART I: KEY CONCEPTS**

	DATE	LECTURE TOPICS
<b>Section 1</b>		<p><b>Key concepts</b></p> <p>Nation, Identity, State. Nationalism and Populism. What is sovereignty? What defines a nation? Theories of nation and nationalism. Sovereignty in the framework of the European Union. Globalization and new nationalisms in Europe. What does independence mean in the 21st century? Current political debates in Spain.</p>
<b>Section 2</b>		<p><b>When nations are born?</b></p> <p>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.</p>

**PART II: THE RULES OF THE  
GAME SPANISH POLITICAL  
STRUCTURE**

	DATE	LECTURE TOPICS
<b>Section 3</b>		<p><b>The long road to Democracy</b> 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.</p>
<b>Section 4</b>		<p><b>How to end a Dictatorship?</b> Spanish transition from a European perspective: the democratic wave in Greece, Portugal and Eastern Europe. The advent of a new political elite and the birth of the Constitution. Dangerous movements: 1981 attempted coup d’état.</p>
<b>Section 5</b>		<p><b>Social and cultural changes in democratic Spain</b> New faces for a new country. Music, literature, film and fashion in the 80s and 90s. Welcome to Europe: joining NATO and European Union.</p>
<b>Section 6</b>		<p><b>A man with many faces: F. Gonzalez and PSOE</b> Basic aspects of the Socialist Party. The Gonzalez years: 1982-1996. From illusion to disappointment. Sympathy for the devil: music, drugs, nihilism and youth culture at the end of the century. The Roaring nineties, market society after the collapse of the Soviet Union. A History of Violence: ETA, “Terrorismo” and counterterrorism.</p>
<b>Section 7</b>		<p><b>The (new) conservatives</b> Basic aspects of Popular Party. The Spanish right in Democracy. Aznar's first term: dealing with Catalanian and Basque nationalists. Over clocked economy: the arrival of the euro, mass tourism, and housing bubble. Fast fortunes and the illusion of the new middle class.</p>
<b>Section 8</b>		<p><b>The formation of Spanish civil society</b> 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.</p>
<b>Section 9</b>		<p><b>New ways of being a Spaniard (or not at all)</b> The new Spaniards. Migration flows from Africa, eastern Europe and Latin America. New political, cultural and religious identities in a multicultural country. Zapatero’s first term. New faces for an old nation: gay marriage and non traditional family models. Football and politics. The role of sport in Nation-building. Tired of being Spaniards: similarities and differences between Basque and Catalanian pro-independence movements.</p>

SPANISH  
STUDIES  
ABROAD

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**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

		ended? Midlife crisis: Spanish Constitution at its' 40 anniversary.
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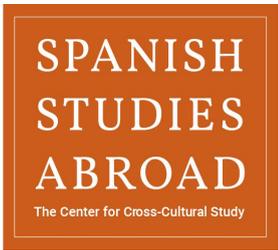
**PART III: AFTER THE DOWNFALL  
NEW PLAYERS, NEW CHALLENGES**

	DATE	LECTURE TOPICS
<b>Section 11</b>		<p><b>The big crash</b> The impact of the September 2008 economic downfall. Domestic problems (the housing bubble) in an international framework (the global financial crisis). Zapatero's second term. The end of the bipartisan system. Losing faith in public institutions. A lot of bad apples: corruption scandals, from politicians and businessmen to film directors and the Royal family.</p>
<b>Section 12</b>		<p><b>Catalonia: Europe's new independent state?</b> 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.</p>
<b>Section 13</b>		<p><b>What's up with the Basque country?</b> A silent victory: the decline of ETA. Euskadi in the new political landscape, broader autonomy, economic negotiation and the appeasement of pro-independence claims.</p>
<b>Section 14</b>		<p><b>New political players (I) Podemos.</b> From the anti-austerity demonstrations to <i>Podemos</i> Populism or popular movement? The social roots behind the public anger: massive youth unemployment and exodus of Spanish graduates looking for a job abroad. 15-M: <i>Indignados</i> movement takes the public arena. The global context: What is <i>Podemos</i>? Can Pablo Iglesias become the next Spanish president? <i>Podemos</i> and the rise of the new socialist government in Spain in 2018.</p>
<b>Section 15</b>		<p><b>New political players (II). Ciudadanos.</b> 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.</p>
<b>Section 16</b>		<p><b>Power in Spain. Who rules the country?</b> 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p>

# SPANISH STUDIES ABROAD

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<b>Section 17</b>		<b>Gender and politics: things have come a long way</b> 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.
<b>Section 18</b>		<b>And now... what? The Twilight zone</b> Pedro Sanchez: an unexpected president. The Catalanian challenge: what happened in the year 2017? Who is



		Carles Puigdemont? Tomorrow's Spain. The immigration debate. A puzzling horizon: the not so distant future.
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