COURSE OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this class is for American students to better understand Spain’s current political panorama, becoming familiarized with the main social, economic and cultural changes that have marked Spain’s recent history. The class focuses on economic factors and the international context, with the goal of explaining in an accessible way to international students the turbulent transition experienced by Spaniards from the collapse of the overseas empire during the 19th century to Spain’s entry into the European Union.

In analyzing the 20th century, special emphasis will be placed on the ideologies that clashed in the Civil War. When studying the Francoist dictatorship, we will examine the European context during a between-war period and the rise of totalitarianism expressed in political tendencies such as fascism and communism. Attention will also be paid to the different phases of Franco’s political regime, from the autarchy of the initial war years to the openness of the dictatorship’s final years.

The final unit of this course will focus on economic and social modernization during the reign of Juan Carlos I and the presidency of Adolfo Suárez, a period of great change and progress in political freedoms, expressed in the Constitution of 1978. To understand the challenges Spanish democracy has faced, students will learn about the origins and development of this country’s nationalist and independentist movements, from Basque nationalism (in the context of which we will discuss terrorism by ETA) to the beginnings and evolution of the Catalan independentist movement.

Finally, this course aims for students to grasp the significance of Spain’s entry into the European Union and the economic transformation the country underwent as a result of adopting a new currency (the euro).

STRUCTURE

The structure of this course relies on both readings and lectures. The premise of each class will be to answer one or more key questions with the participation of the entire group. In the first part of the class, the instructor will speak. In the second part, students will express their ideas and points of view using the assigned readings as a springboard for discussion. In order to broaden students’ knowledge, the instructor will encourage students to consult varied materials including videos, movies, newspapers and television programs. Students will also be encouraged to prepare and present a topic to their classmates.

TEXTBOOK
The instructor will provide in advance the materials necessary for each session. After finishing the class, students will thus possess a range of texts covering the course content.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Fuentes, J.F. *Con el rey y contra el rey: los socialistas y la monarquía*. Barcelona: La esfera de los libros, 2016.


**IN ENGLISH.**


As a part of this course, we will visit several locations related to the topics studied. In addition, we will view in class four movies from the following list of films representing certain key moments of Spain's contemporary history.

- *Guernika*. Dir: Koldo Sierra.
- *La sombra de la ley*. Dir: Dani de la Torre.

**EVALUATION**

Evaluation will be ongoing with a special emphasis on active participation. Students will be evaluated based on their participation and their attention to assigned readings, as well as their contributions and willingness to enhance the proper functioning of each session. Attendance is mandatory. In order to evaluate participation, the instructor may administer short quizzes at the beginning of class.

This class will include two exams: a midterm at the sixth week and a final exam at the end of the course calendar. The final grade will encompass the following aspects:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and readings</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentations throughout the class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written research paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Students should dedicate time outside of class to reviewing the material of the previous session, completing the assigned exercises and preparing the content to be covered in the following class.

**Oral presentations** will discuss a historical event or figure covered in class.

**1. CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/ Activity planned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key concepts. Course objectives.</td>
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| Week 2 | **Key dates in Spanish history.**  
The country before the 20th century: from the Reconquest to the Empire. Spain’s decline and loss of power in the world. How does our perspective change how we view Spanish history? |
| **Week 3** | **The collapse. Spain at the turn of the century.**  
| **Week 4** | **The Silver Age of Spanish culture.**  
| **Week 5** | **The Second Republic.**  
| **Week 6** | **The Spanish Civil War. (I) (1936-1939).**  
| **Week 7** | **The Spanish Civil War (II) (1936-1939).**  
| **Week 8** | **Franco’s Spain (I). The postwar period and World War II.**  
Franco’s position during the development of World War II. Postwar Spain. The hardest years: destruction, shortages, rationing. The autarchy. Pillars of the Francoist regime: the Church, the army and the Phallanx. The new
| Week 9 | **Franco’s Spain (II). Final years of the regime.**  
| Week 10 | **The Transition. The road to democracy.**  
| Week 11 | **Course summary. Oral presentations and final exam.** |