SOC 351  SPANISH SOCIETY

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the course is for students to understand the structures of contemporary Spanish society, by studying its foundations and recent history. Through class discussion, theoretical study will be continually contrasted with the student’s knowledge and experience of daily life.

STRUCTURE

The course offers an in-depth analysis of the different themes that comprise sociological inquiry. Lectures will be complemented by readings which will allow students to actively participate in class discussions. In order to assure thorough analysis of the themes, a fundamental focus will be the development of the student’s capacity for critical thinking.

In accordance with the Writing Program, each student must hand in a research paper in Word format, double-spaced and using Arial 12 font. This paper must be six to eight pages long. Prior to the writing process, each student should present an outline to the instructor for revision and orientation in regard to specific sources. In addition to this paper, students must complete other assignments: presentations in diverse formats, comments on visits, movies or debates. Due dates for assignments are included in the calendar of specific activities.

The instructor will provide the students with key questions on each topic.

TEXTBOOK:

Cuaderno de clase: SOCI 351: SPANISH SOCIETY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIS (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas) España 2015: Situación social. Madrid 2015
González, J.J. Cambio social en la España del siglo XXI. Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 2020

This content will be supplemented by additional articles and breaking news related to course topics.

EVALUATION
Students will be evaluated on their active participation and contribution to making the class function. Any unexcused absences will lower the participation grade in accordance with the Center’s attendance policy.

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<td>1. Participation*</td>
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<td>0. Midterm exam</td>
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<td>0. Presentations, activities and assignments</td>
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1. TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic/ Activity Planned</th>
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| Week 1 | **Topic 1: Immediate historical precedents of current Spanish society.**
Economic and social consequences of the Civil War.
Effects of the pandemic in Spanish society.
Class activity: What issues concern Spaniards nowadays? |
| Week 2 | **Topic 2: The Spanish population**
Recent demographic changes.
Evolution of population pyramids.
Birth rate and life expectancy.
Population and demographic density: España vaciada or “Empty Spain.”
Migratory movements. Immigration in Spain. |
| Week 3 | **Topic 3: New families in Spain.**
Toward a definition of family.
Evolution of basic functions of the Spanish family.
Marriage and divorce in the modern couple.
Women’s role in contemporary society. Gender violence. |
<p>| Week 4 | <strong>Topic 4: Social stratification: Inequality and poverty.</strong> |</p>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 5      |      | Social mobility.  
|        |      | Inequality and poverty nowadays. New social classes.  
|        |      | Social classes and consumption.  
| 6      |      | **Topic 6: Education in Spain.**  
|        |      | The Spanish educational system. Educational cycles.  
|        |      | The University: Work opportunities, education and modernization.  
|        |      | Pros and cons of the Spanish educational system.  
| 7      |      | **Topic 7: Spanish youth.**  
|        |      | Composition and characteristics.  
|        |      | *Oral presentations*  
| 8      |      | **Topic 8: Economy and employment in Spain.**  
|        |      | Effects of the pandemic on the economy and employment.  
|        |      | Job market, occupation and social classes.  
|        |      | The services sector. Recent changes in job structure.  
| 9      |      | **Topic 9: The welfare state and social politics.**  
|        |      | Welfare state: Characteristics  
|        |      | Pensions: Recent changes.  
|        |      | Spanish healthcare.  
| 10     |      | **Topic 10: New values in Spanish society.**  
|        |      | Secularization of Spanish society.  
|        |      | Social norms. Merton’s typology.  
|        |      | Symbolism and meaning of festivals.  
|        |      | Hand in research papers  
| 11     |      | REVIEW OF THE CLASS  
| 12     |      | Final exam  