SPAN 335S: SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Since the 1950s, the European Union has been carrying out one of the most complex and successful experiments in regional integration on both a political and economic level. However, the current economic crisis is revealing flaws in this project.

With 27 member states, a population of over 500 million, a common currency used in 17 countries, and a domestic market in which persons, products and services circulate freely, the European Union is an economic superpower. Moreover, EU citizens enjoy the highest levels of social protection and political participation. The EU aims to promote its model of democracy, rule of higher law and protection of human rights in the rest of the world.

To better understand this project of European integration, the course will begin with an overview of the EU's history, from the European Coal and Steel Community to the current Lisbon Treaty with its vicissitudes. We will then discuss the institutional framework of the European Union, with a special emphasis on its economic and legal character, and finally we will study the international action of the Union.

We will analyze in a transversal manner the role of Spain in each of the proposed topics.

Upon finishing the course, students should possess knowledge of the following:

● The historical processes that have converged in the current European Union.

● How the EU works, who governs it, how different states interact and the role Spain plays in its institutions.

● The EU’s essential economic mechanisms: domestic market and standard currency.

● Foundations of the EU legal code.

● How the EU interacts with other agents in international politics.

In addition to theoretical expositions, students will conduct case studies related to the subject matter and discuss current news on the EU. We will also visit the
European Documentation Center in Seville and the headquarters of the Spanish delegation to the European Commission, in Madrid.

**STRUCTURE**

As stated, the format of this class includes the exposition of topics by the instructor, along with students’ active participation. Classes will combine theory and practice, including the completion of case studies and the analysis of articles from the press documenting situations of the current economic context in Europe and the world.

In accordance with the guidelines of the *Writing Program*, students must complete a research paper, typed and double-spaced in Word using a 12-point Arial font. Papers will be 6-8 pages long. In this paper, students should analyze some of the topics covered in class.

Each student will receive a list of *key questions* for each topic. This list will orient students in the reading process and facilitate comprehension.

**TEXTBOOKS**


A pack of photocopies treating the formation of the EU and its institutions.

Students will also have access to the text of the Treaty on the European Union, downloadable at http://europa.eu/documentation/legislation/index_es.htm

**COMPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY**


**EVALUATION**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project / Exposition</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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COURSE TOPICS

1.- FOUNDATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL IDENTITY.

2.- THE FIRST STAGES OF EUROPEANISM AND THE BEGINNING OF INTEGRATION.

3.- THE INNER SIX AND THE CRISIS OF THE SIXTIES.

4.- FROM THE COMMON MARKET TO THE EUROPEAN UNION.

5.- TOWARD THE EUROPEAN UNION.

6.- FROM MAASTRICHT TO THE EURO.

7.- FIFTEEN BECOME TWENTY-SEVEN.

8.- FROM ROME TO LISBON.

9.- INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

10.- LIMITS TO INTEGRATION.
Nationalisms, antagonisms and sovereignty. The position of the UK. European recession and north-south inequality. The role of Germany.