# SPAN 312S
# FOUNDATIONS OF SPANISH CULTURE

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course, we offer a vision of Spanish culture and civilization, concentrating our interests on the city of Seville. We will focus on historical development and the analysis of achievements of Spaniards throughout history, paying close attention to those factors that influence our identities the most (such as language, literature, art, social organization, economy, folklore, music, and film) in order to understand the personality, character, lifestyle, and cultural inheritance that we have today.

We will utilize the resources of Seville and its surroundings, the experience of past and present in music, art, architecture, and popular culture, such as flamenco and film. Multiple class visits throughout Seville will illustrate the themes discussed in class.

## STRUCTURE

The classes will begin with a brief presentation of general concepts related to each diverse historical time period. Following this introduction, the students, supported by readings, will define the characteristics of each time period and analyze each one of the aspects discussed, developing their critical thinking skills. Our classes will end with a projection of slides and videos. Also, frequent visits will be organized where students are expected to actively participate. These visits will be guided by the students themselves as personal projects.

**All students will receive a list of key questions on each topic. This list will aid in the preparation of readings and facilitate the comprehension of the material studied.**

Each student will complete a research project about one specific aspect of a subject studied in the course. The report will be 4-6 pages, written in Microsoft Word, using Arial 12-point font, double-spaced, and following the norms of the Writing Program. The deadline for handing in this project will be two days before the final exam.

## TEXTBOOK

- DE QUINTA GARROBO, A. Lecciones de cultura y civilización española. Sevilla: Editorial Diada Editora, 2012.

## EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated throughout class, with special emphasis on class participation; class attendance is obligatory. A student who attends every class will have a minimum

participation grade of 60 and a maximum participation grade of 100. A student who does not attend a single class will have a participation grade of 0. Absences should be approved by the professor and the Resident Director.

To supplement participation grades, the professor may ask students to complete brief quizzes about information from the previous class at the beginning of the following class without prior notice.

There will be two tests throughout the course.

The student will complete a research project to complement his or her final grade. Therefore, the final grade will be based on the following components:

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| **1. Participation** | 20% |
| **2. Mid-term Exam** | 20% |
| **3. Final Exam** | 20% |
| **4. Oral Presentations** | 20% |
| **5. Research Project** | 10% |
| **6. Activities** | 10% |

## 1. LIST OF TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

| | **Topic / Activity planned** |
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| **Day 1** | Introduction.<br>**Current Spain**: peculiarities and relevant topics. |
| **Day 2** | **Crossroads**: Introduction.<br>Geographical considerations.<br>Spain's physical, cultural and linguistic diversity.<br>Demographics, politics and autonomous communities. (p. 10-14) |
| **Day 3** | Hispania.<br>Causes of the Roman invasion.<br>Romanization and its factors.<br>Cities of Hispania.<br>Art and architecture. (p. 22-32) |

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| | *Visit to the Roman ruins at Italica. (**Mandatory visit**)*<br>*Optional visit to Casa de Pilatos.* |
| **Day 4** | **Medieval Spain**: Sefarad, the Spanish Jews.<br>Origins and extension of the Muslim religion.<br>Córdoba, capital of Al-Andalus.<br>Crisis of the Caliphate and the Taifas.<br>Beginnings of the Christian Reconquest.<br>The Mozarab culture. (p 38-50)<br>*Visit to the Archeological Museum.* |
| **Day 5** | **A divided map**: Almohad reunification.<br>Seville in 1248.<br>The Mudejar culture.<br>The Nasrid dynasty in Granada and the Catholic Monarchs.<br>The Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews.<br>The multicultural legacy.<br>Christian art. (p 52-64)<br>*Visit to Italica* |
| **Day 6** | **The Renaissance**: creation of the modern State.<br>Spain and the New World.<br>Culture in the Renaissance.<br>Charles V and Philip II.<br>Literature up to the sixteenth century.<br>The impact of an empire. (p 66-78)<br>*Visit to the Archive of the Indies and the Charity Hospital.* |
| **Day 7** | Documentaries and midterm exam. |
| **Day 8** | **The Spanish Golden Age**: the Baroque and the crisis of the Empire.<br>The Counter-Reformation.<br>Holy Week.<br>Baroque art.<br>Literature of the Spanish Golden Age.<br>Cervantes and the Quixote.<br>*Visit to the Alcazar.* |
| **Day 9** | **The eighteenth century**: the Bourbons.<br>Charles III and the Enlightenment.<br>Goya. |

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| | **The nineteenth century**: bourgeois revolution and Romanticism.<br>Flamenco and bullfighting.<br>*Watch Blood Weddings and the Festival of San Fermín* |
| **Day 10** | **The Restoration**: conservatives and liberals.<br>The workers' movement.<br>The end of the colonial Empire.<br>The Generation of '98 and the Silver Age of Spanish Culture.<br>Art between centuries.<br>*Tour of the Seville of '29.*<br>*Visit to the Alcazar.* |
| **Day 11** | **The twentieth century**: the Second Republic.<br>The Civil War and the dictatorship.<br>The Generation of '27.<br>Picasso and the Avant-Garde.<br>Democracy and the Constitution of 1978.<br>Spain and the European Union. |
| **Day 12** | **The twenty-first century**: The welfare state.<br>Economic problems and unemployment.<br>A new social framework. |
| **Day 13** | The Spanish woman.<br>Spanish cinema.<br>Current art. Spaniards' concerns.<br>*Visit to the Cathedral.* |
| **FINAL EXAM** | General review and preparation for the final exam. |