



PROGRAMA:

CURSO: Spain in the 21st 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.

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 fervour 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 proposes 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.

ON-LINE TEACHING APPROACH

This course will be taught entirely online, between September 14th and December 18th. During this time students, twice per week, students will receive two hour classes each day. The lessons will alternate webinars developing the course content and live classes in which debates and exchanging points of view between the professor and students are encouraged. Each week will tackle a key question. In the first part of the session, there will be a lecture. In the second part, 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 actual parliamentary debates.

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:

1) Class attendance and term papers	25 %
2) Oral presentations	25%
3) Final research	25%
4) Final exam	25%

Assesment 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.

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
- 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
Section 1		Key concepts

		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.
Section 2		When nations are born? 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.

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

	DATE	LECTURE TOPICS
Section 3		Spanish political system. A parliamentary monarchy in the 21st century Main political institutions in Spain. The parliamentary monarchy model. Division of powers and party system. Differences between the Spanish and American political and electoral system.
Section 4		Who is who? Key players in Spanish politics. The party system in Spain. <i>1. The two main parties.</i> Socialist Party and Popular Party. Government. The PSOE. The multiple faces of the socialist party. Who is Pedro Sánchez? The opposition. The Popular Party. How did you go from a bipartisan system to a multi-party system?
Section 5		Fragmentation on the left: Podemos and left-wing populism. From the “indignant movement” to Podemos. Populism or popular movements? What is populism? Origins and evolution of the term. The “populist moment” of Podemos and its links with the political radicalisation in Latin America.
Section 6		Fragmentation on the right: Citizens party and Vox. An unexpected guest: “Ciudadanos de Cataluña”. Does the political center exist in Spain? Reasons for the fall of

		Citizens. Vox: national-populism and the rise of the extreme far- right in Europe. Features in Spain.
Section 7		International Relations (I). Spain in Europe. The framework of the European Union and the international role of Spain. From the ashes of WWII and post-war reconstruction of the continent to Brexit: a brief history of the European project. The integration of Spain in the EU and the road to the Euro.
Section 8		International Relations (II). Spain in the World. Euro crisis, Brexit and the challenge of immigration: The international scene: the political and economic relationship with the Ibero-American community and the role of Spain in promoting democracy in Latin America. The new relationship with the United States and the impact of protectionist policies on global trade under Trump’s administration.
Section 9		Hypothesis for an uncertain period. Spain and COVID-19 Applying what was learned during the course, students will analyze the possible scenarios that open up in Spain in the context of economic, political and social uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
Section 10		Unresolved political debates in 21st century Spain. The territorial conflict. Catalonia, new state of Europe?. The demographic problem and the “empty” Spain. The economic dependence on tourism and the impact of mass tourism. What challenges lays the future?

**PART III:
FINAL RESEARCH, ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND EXAM**

	Fechas	Temas/ Actividad Programada
Last week		Final Research, oral presentations and last exam