

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022)

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Department assigned to the subject:

Coordinating teacher: NAVARRO COMAS, ROCIO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester :

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

No previous knowledge is required.

OBJECTIVES

This course focuses on the recent history of Spain, but it does so not only from the perspective of the study of the past, as it aims to go further: through the topics to be discussed, the scope is to reach an understanding of Spanish culture and reality. This way, it constitutes not only an academic subject, but also presents a more flexible and dynamic vision. It offers the required knowledge and skills for students to get a profound, but also critical and analytical understanding of the country in which they are going to live for several months. This comprehension will qualify students to explain the complex implementation of civil, political and social rights in Spanish society, to reflect on the normality and specificities of the history of Spain in the western world context and to acquire a deep and complex vision of the current problems of the Spanish and, therefore, global society.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

Through the study of current events in today's Spain, the course will grant a vast comprehension of the Spanish society at the present time. In order to achieve that, one major focus will be the study of contemporary Spanish History of the last century. In the context of a complex and rapidly changing world, the History of the twentieth century faces remarkable opportunities. It is an important factor of social cohesion, as it is one of the first forms of social consciousness and regional and group identity. Thus, a large part of the contents of the course will be linked to the Spanish national culture and vision of the past.

The course will therefore comprehend the study of the nineteen thirties, analyzing the modernizing project of the Second Republic, frustrated by the civil war and the subsequent Franco dictatorship. These decades, up to the present day -and the special emphasis given to the study of the transitionship to democracy- will be the basis to study the major issues that are today under discussion in Spanish society; the different political, but also cultural trends and problems that have shaped the current Spanish circumstances: the question of nationalism, the situation of women, the organization of the state, the political situation, the economic crisis, etc.

We will turn to the cinema, the media -the written press but also to audiovisual journalism- to investigate about the historic fundamentals of contemporary Spain. Likewise, the students will be presented with texts to analyze, political propaganda, pictures, documentaries and films that will help them assimilate a complete and detailed knowledge of the topics that will be studied during the course.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Active participation will be required, as it will provide students with analytical, critical and communication skills. Class attendance is mandatory.

The course will be based on lectures and class work.

The lectures will consist on a topic presentation, which will give the basic background to be able to fulfill the class work. In the practical part of the class, the students will have to read and work with texts and audio-visual material related to the time and circumstances that are been studied.

There will be weekly office hours, and so students will be able to discuss in them any matters related to

their work within the class or their papers. They will be able to do so in individual meetings or in small groups.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The student work will consist on three tasks:

- 1) Activities within the class -readings, class discussion and short exercises- (30%).
- 2) Two midterm exams about the readings and other class material (40%).
- 3) A final paper that will require working outside the class, the use of the library resources and the search of references (30%). For this final dissertation, the students can count on individual or group tutorials.

Class attendance is mandatory. Unjustified absence in more than three instances will result in failure of the course.

The first unexcused absence does not penalize.

The second unexcused absence penalizes -0.3 on the final grade.

The third unexcused absence penalizes -0.5 on the final grade.

The fourth unexcused absence means failure of the course, the student can continue attending class if he/she wishes, but has failed the subject.