



CH3661
Present-day Spain:
Living in Spain



UNIVERSIDAD
NEBRIJA

Centro de Estudios Hispánicos

Present-day Spain: Living in Spain

Hours: 45

Prerequisites: No requirements

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Office hours: to be communicated the first day of class

1. Course Description

In this course, the most significant social and cultural aspects of the present Spanish society will be dealt with, with a special attention to their representation in Madrid. The contents of this course will present the students with a broad panorama of Spanish and Madrid life. Starting from an introduction of Spain, its geography and political system, we will move on to dealing with topics such as population and immigration trends, shopping culture, the fast-growing fashion business, social rights, gender issues, the influence of religion in the Spanish society and its traditional festivities, gastronomy or Spaniards preferred activities. In other words, students will get to know and experience the Spanish way of life from a hands-on approach. A special focus will be put on the experiential learning by means of several out-of class activities such as walking tours, elaboration of surveys and guest speakers. Also, students will be encouraged to compare and contrast the Spanish and Madrid society with their cultures of origin in order to develop their intercultural abilities and knowledge.

2. Learning Objectives

The general learning objectives of this course are:

- Familiarize with the best-known cultural referents of the Spanish society and culture.
- Increase knowledge about social and cultural aspects of Spanish culture with a special focus on Madrid.
- Analyze specific data and theoretical concepts and use them to interpret the Spanish present reality.
- Become aware of cultural differences between the Spanish society and the student's culture of origin through a process of intercultural reflection.
- Incorporate and activate social and cultural knowledge in order to develop intercultural skills and attitudes.
- Reflect upon intercultural learning and develop observation and analysis strategies.
- Participate in respectful exchanges of ideas and experiences with classmates.

3. Formative Activities

The basic formative activities in this course are as follows:

- Interactive classes.
- Learning activities inside and outside of class.
- Students' oral presentations in class.
- Revision, correction and comments on the activities elaborated inside and outside of class.
- Complementary activities: watching and commenting videos, analyzing songs, participating in fieldtrips, organizing debates, elaborating surveys and interpreting their results, etc.

4. Methodology

The course syllabus follows the Communicative Approach methods, based on the core principles of procedure conception and constructive acquisition of knowledge. The methodology is based on the teaching-learning procedures, focused on the learner, which encourages active participation and results in the development of general and specific competencies that provide knowledge, capacities and attitudes for their future professional careers.

5. Contents

The contents of this course are detailed in the table at the end of this document.

6. Evaluation

The form of assessment is based on the core principles of the educational assessment, i.e., an active and participative teaching-learning process focused on the learner. The instructor uses numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade received for this course. For the record, these are listed below. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class.

6.1. Grading system

In the Spanish educational system, it is required to quantitatively express the result of each student's evaluation. In order to do so, Nebrija faculty uses different strategies and instruments such as: papers, exams, tests, projects, self-evaluation activities, etc. In order to issue a final grade for the Spanish Plus programs the following scale is established:

- 30 % Attendance and active participation in class
- 30% Daily work/ Papers/ Essays
- 40% Exams/ Final papers or projects*

Therefore, the final grade is the average between attendance and participation, daily work and exams, presentations, projects and essays.

Active participation in class is evaluated by means of different activities such as:

- Activities and exercises correction;
- Reflection upon the different contents in the course
- Oral activities (individual, in pairs or in groups). Fluency, correction, adequacy and relevance are taken into account.
- Daily work makes reference to any activity or task that is done inside or outside of the classroom, whether during the class time or at any other time.
- Exams/papers/projects

The course includes a midterm and a final written exam on theoretical concepts and course facts. If a student, unjustifiably, does not do or submit an exam, paper or project, it will be graded with a '0'.

*** A minimum grade of 5 must be obtained in a final exam/ final project in order to pass the course.**

6.2. Attendance, participation and grading policies

6.2.1. Attendance policy

Attendance is mandatory. In case of missing 5 or more sessions in one course, the student will receive a zero in his/her participation and attendance grade. In addition, not attending classes will not excuse the student from handing in in any homework, papers or essays previously assigned.

The following situations must be considered:

- Each session of class will count as an absence.
- Two delays of more than 15 minutes will be considered an absence. The entrance to class will not be allowed after 30 minutes once it has started.
- There are no excused absences. E.g.: Not attending class because of sickness will count as an absence.

- The student is responsible for catching up with any homework done while absent.
- Exams dates have been officially approved by the University, therefore, they will not be changed.*

*Except for those courses where the professor will set up specific dates and inform the students at the beginning of the program.

6.2.2. Criteria to evaluate participation

Criteria to evaluate participation	Grade
The student participates very actively in the class activities. S/he successfully does the requested tasks. S/he contributes to a good development of the course, encourages his/her classmates and favor debate in class.	8.5 - 10
The student participates actively in the class activities. S/he does the requested tasks and submits them on time. Shows great interest to learn.	7 - 8.4
The student, occasionally, makes interesting remarks, but s/he basically answers when s/he is asked. S/he does not show a clear interest in the course. Misses classes occasionally.	5 - 6.9
The student does not participate unless s/he is asked. S/he has unjustified absences and delays. His/her attitude is not very participative.	0 - 4.9

6.2.3. Criteria to evaluate Daily Work

Criteria to evaluate Daily Work	Grade
The student always does all the work demanded by the professor, not only during the class but also at home. He/she always or almost always meets the deadlines established.	8.5 - 10
The student almost always does all the work demanded by the professor, not only during the class but also at home. Occasionally, he/she submits work after the established deadline.	7 - 8.4
The student occasionally does the work demanded by the professor, not only during the class but also at home. He/she does not normally meet the established deadlines and even occasionally does not submit the work.	5 - 6.9
The student never or almost never does the work demanded by the professor. He/she never or almost never meets the established deadlines.	0 - 4.9

6.2.4. Grading criteria

Number Grade	Letter Grade	Percentage
10	A+	100%
9.5 – 9.9	A	95 – 99 %
9 – 9.4	A-	90 – 94 %
8.5 – 8.9	B+	85 – 89 %
7.5 – 8.4	B	75 – 84 %
7 – 7.4	B-	70 – 74 %
6.5 – 6.9	C+	65 – 69 %
6 – 6.4	C	60 – 64 %
5 – 5.9	C-	5 – 59 %
0 – 4.9	F	0 – 49 %

6.3. Warning on plagiarism

When writing a University paper or essay and reference is made to certain authors, it is mandatory to cite them by means of a footnote or a direct reference. In no case it is acceptable that a student uses a text, no matter how brief it is, written by somebody else without putting it in inverted commas, as this means s/he is trying to make it look as his/her own. This is called plagiarism and in a university context it could be penalized with expulsion.

7. Bibliography

To be determined.

8. Lecturer Brief CV

Luisa Sánchez Rivas received her Master Degree in Bilingual Education at Nebrija University (Madrid), and graduated in Law at Granada University (Granada). She has been teaching at Nebrija University for seven years, and is a member of the *Limen Group*, (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), a group of research focused on the study of literatures produced in the “margins”, out of the traditional literary canon.

Her previous experience includes, after completing her education with a Postgraduate Program in Teaching in New York University, a committed involvement for four years in the foundation and development of Granada College, a bilingual school from Pre-School to High School. After that, she went on to collaborate in the program *Liberal Arts and Public Service*, a bilingual program for Latinamerican students hosted in Brown University in 2009.

She is currently working on her doctoral dissertation in the field of Cultural Studies, and on a creative writing workshop, “Subverting the canon: liminal voices”.

9. Office Hours

Tutorial schedule will be confirmed in the first couple of sessions, to guarantee that the time schedule suits the needs of students and instructor. However, it is always advisable to make an appointment with the lecturer beforehand in order to ensure availability.

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10. Course Content

SESSIONS	TOPIC	TASKS
Session 1 SPAIN INTRODUCTION	1. Spain Introduction 1.1. Spanish geography •General geography introduction •Relevant aspects of Spanish Comunidades Autónomas 1.2. Spanish political system •Brief historical background (dictatorship, transition) •Introduction to Spanish political system (monarchy, parties, elections, local governments) •General overview of present Spanish political scenario •Main Spanish and European institutions 1.3. Madrid Geography	- Topic-related activities - Familiarize with Madrid metro map and districts - Picture project of different Madrid districts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Madrid barrios •Madrid transportation 	
Session 2 POPULATION & SOCIETY	<p>2. Population and society General overview of Spanish society</p> <p>2.1. Immigration in Madrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Migrant movements •Illegal immigration vs. Expats •Immigrant aggrupation in districts <p>2.1. Spanish youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spanish Educational System •Spanish youth profile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities - Picture project of different Madrid districts
Session 3 BUSINESS & PROFFESIONAL WORLD	<p>3. Business world and professional career</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Overview of key Spanish companies •Spanish business behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities - Picture project of different Madrid districts
Session 4 SHOPPING	<p>4. Shopping in Madrid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Opening times and shopping culture •Traditional markets vs. modern markets •Traditional business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities
Session 5 FASHION	<p>5. Fashion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spanish textile business •Spanish designers •Spanish fashion events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities
Session 6 SOCIAL RIGHTS	<p>6. Social Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spanish taxing system •Social Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities
Session 7 GENDER	<p>7. Gender issues in Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Changes in women's roles •Domestic violence •LGTB community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities
Session 8 RELIGION	<p>8. Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Catholic tradition and influence (past vs. present) •Presence of other religions in Spain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities
Session 9 FESTIVITIES	<p>9. Festivities Spanish and Madrid festivities and traditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and oral presentations: Spanish festivities and traditions
Session 10 GASTRONOMY	<p>10. Gastronomy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Traditional Spanish dishes •Spanish restaurants •Spanish Chefs (Michelin starts, business groups...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities
Session 11 LEISURE & HOBBIES	<p>11. Living the Spanish way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cinema & theater •Tapeo & Madrid Nightlife •Reading •Gambling and lottery •Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic-related activities