**Spanish Culture and Society**

**Institution:** EDE Escuela de Español

**Academic Credit:** 3 Semester Credits\*\*

**Description**

This course will introduce students to diﬀerent historical issues that have formed present day Spanish culture and society. Students will learn the cultural background so as to understand how the country evolved into present day Spain. Religious, political and societal issues will be used to come up with a better understanding of modern Spain.

Beginning with an introduction to its geography and languages, this course will touch on such topics as Paleolithic settlement and art, the arrival of new groups, the Islamic conquest and Christian reconquest (Reconquista), medieval kingdoms and their uniﬁcation, the separate way of Portugal, the birth and death of religious toleration, the rise and fall of Spain in the European

state system, and ﬁnally, the emergence of one of Europe’s most democratic societies. Wherever possible, the course will attempt to place Spain into the larger context of European and Mediterranean society. Basic information will be conferred primarily through lectures by the professor.

**Course Registration Code: SOC/HIS/ART/SPA 206**

This course is cross-listed due to its multidisciplinary nature. Students must indicate the preferred CRN on the KEI Course Approval Form. The focus of the ﬁnal project for the course must correspond to the selected Course Registration Code. For example, if a student lists HIS206 on

the Course Registration Form, then the ﬁnal project must focus on history of Spain. Note that the default Course Registration Code is SOC206.

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| **CLASS SCHEDULE AND WORKLOAD BREAKDOWN:** |  |  |
| **CONTENT** | **CLASS ACTIVITY** | **ASSIGNMENT** |
| Introduction to Spain & Spanish History |  |  |
| Religion in Spain | Catedral de Burgos |  |
| Burgos and the Kingdom of Castile | Castillo de Burgos | Write one-page report |
| Spanish society: Traditions, customs and festivities |  |  |
| Beyond Prehistoric Spain: First Spaniards | Museum of Human Evolution | Write one-page report |
| Spanish Geography |  |  |
| Iberia Overseas: Pioneers in the Age of European Expansion | Casa del Cordón |  |
| Latin American Civilization and Culture |  |  |
| Spanish literature (up to the 18th Century) | Biblioteca Pública de Burgos |  |
| Politics in Spain |  |  |
| Spanish literature (19th  Century to present) Spanish Economy |  |  |
| The Spanish Republic and Civil War | Palacio de la Isla | Write one-page report |
| Castles, Cathedrals, and Spanish Architecture | Toledo |  |
| Contemporary Spanish Art | Prada Museum Madrid |  |
| **FINAL PROJECT** |  | Pick one topic covered in class to research. Write a 3-page paper and prepare a 10 minute presentation as group or individually |

\*Please note that this schedule of topics is approximate and is likely to change. Additional readings may also be assigned.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

Throughout the course, students will participate in the following academic activities. Note that some activities may change.

1. Historical and cultural areas of Burgos:

• Historic center of Burgos

• Palacio de la Isla

• Biblioteca Pública de Burgos

• Museum of Human Evolution

• Casa del Cordón

• Catedral de Burgos

3. Monastery of ‘Santa María la Real de las Huelgas’

4. Castle of Burgos

5. Spanish gastronomy, Tapa tasting

6. Street shows

7. Day trip to Bilbao and San Sebastian

8. A three-day trip to Madrid and Toledo

Each excursion or activity will have a small assignment associated with the activity/excursion. This assignment must be discussed during class and assessed as part of the ﬁnal grade for the Spanish Culture & Society program.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Final Project: 50%

Oral Presentation: 20%

Activity Reports: 20%

Class Participation: 10%

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is mandatory. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis with the authorization of the professor. If students miss class due to illness or injury, a doctor’s note must be provided.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Collection of reading materials presented by the teacher.