COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an in-depth examination of the cultural plurality of Spain. Through a variety of texts including, but not limited to, short stories, films, political manifestoes, press articles, poetry, music, performance and film, students will explore how different art forms contribute to the concept of national, regional and popular identities from around Spain. This course will be divided in three parts: it will begin with a brief historical survey of multiculturalism in Spain from the Roman Empire to present day. In this first section, we will particularly focus on artistic expressions as reflections of culture. The second part will be dedicated to the cultural evolution of Spain during the years of ‘Transición’ from the Francoist Regime to Democracy. In the third part we will focus on the relatively recent resurgence of regional cultures (Galicia, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Andalusia), the merging of Spain into the greater European culture as well as the development of a variety of subcultures.

This course will be taught in English. Knowledge of Spanish is highly preferable and recommended since some materials will not be available in English. However, it is not required.

This course can also count toward a European Studies Minor.

CLASS MEETINGS:  MWF - 1.30pm - 2.20pm -- Humanities Center 314

REQUIRED TEXTS:


CLASS SCHEDULE:
This program indicates the minimal readings and themes for each class. It does not include other sources and assignments that will be distributed by professor at the end of a class. These assignments will have to be completed for the next class.


FIRST PART: THE ORIGINS OF CULTURE(S)

1/12: The First Cultures on the Peninsula:
Read Introduction by Raymond Carr (Carr:1-9); A.T. Fear, “Prehistoric and Roman Spain” (Carr: 11-38).

1/15: Visigothic Spain and the Early Middle Ages
Read Roger Collins (Carr: 39-62); Richard Fletcher (Carr: 63-90)

1/17: Medieval Multiculturalism: Three Religions for a Peninsula
Read Angus Mackay (Carr: 91-115); Americo Castro, “Islamic Tradition and Spanish Life” *

1/19: The Advent of Islam in the Peninsula: Film Documentary.

1/22: The Culture of the One and Unique: the Catholic Kings
Read Felipe Fernández-Armesto, “The Improbable Empire” (Carr: 116-151)
Analysis of Expulsion Decree of February 17th, 1610

1/24: Culture of Conquest: Spain and the Americas
Read Henry Kamen, “Vicissitudes of Power” (Carr: 152-172)

1/26: The Golden Age: Literary Expressions of Cultural Anxieties
Read Miguel de Cervantes, “El Retablo de las Maravillas” *

1/29: 18th-century Anti-Enlightenment and Napoleonic Invasions
Read Richard Herr, “Flow and Ebb” (Carr: 173-204)

1/31: The Rise of the Urban Culture: Madrid in the 19th-century
Read excerpts from Benito Pérez Galdós *
Read Raymond Carr, “Liberalism and Reaction” (Carr: 205-242)

2/2: Generations of Self-Reflected Cultures: el 1898
Read Ángel Ganivet, excerpts from El Idearium Español *

2/5: Surrealism vs. Fascism: Conflicting Cultures of 1936
Read Federico García Lorca, excerpts from Poet in New York *; Rafael Alberti, excerpts from Marinero en la Tierra *
Read José Álvarez Junco, “History, Politics and Culture, 1875-1936” *

2/7: The Culture of Fascism: El Caudillo takes over Spain
Read Sebastian Balfour, “Spain from 1931 to the Present” (Carr: 243-282)
Read John Hooper, “Introduction” (Hooper: 1-12)

2/9: Times of Silence: the Organization of Monolithic Culture
Read John Hooper, “Economic and Social Change: from the Years of Hunger to the Years of Development” (Hooper: 13-28)
Read Helen Graham, “Popular Culture in the Years of Hunger” *
Read excerpts from Luis Martín Santos, Times of Silence *

2/12: The Death of Franco: a New Beginning for Multicultural Spain?
Read John Hooper, “Political Change: from Dictatorship to Democracy” (Hooper: 29-84)
Read Carolyn Boyd, “History, Politics and Culture, 1936-1975” *
A Short Film Documentary on the end of the Francoist regime will be projected in class.

SECOND PART: CULTURES IN TRANSITIONS

2/14: Constitutional Monarchy, Multipolitical Spain and Cultural Façades: Juan Carlos II
Read Part Two in John Hooper, “The Pillars of Society” (Hooper: 85-148)
Read Santos Juliá, “History, Politics and Culture, 1975-1996” *

2/16: Main Culture and Sexual Liberation: the Years of Movida
Read John Hooper, “Coming to Terms with Freedom” (Hooper: 149-185)
Read Peter Evans, “Back to the Future: Cinema and Democracy” *
A selection of movie clips from Almodóvar’s first movies will be projected in class.

2/19: Culture of Fear and Risks
Read John Hooper, “High stakes, Cult of Excess, Invisible Guardians, Law and Disorder” (Hooper: 186-228)
Read Maria T. Pao, “Sex, Drugs and Rock’n’Roll: Historias del Kronen as Blank Fiction” (1-14). The movie “Stories of Kronen” will be projected this same night. Class will agree on a time convenient for all students.

2/21: 80’s Urban Culture and its Beehives
Read Part Four in John Hooper, “Government and the Individual” (Hooper: 229-288)
Read Borja de Riquer, “Social and Economic Change in Political Immobilism” *
We will analyze movie segments from Almodóvar’s “What have I done to deserve this?”(1984).

2/23: Socialism, Expansion and the New Spanish Culture of Tourism
Read Part Five in John Hooper, “Society Reflected” (Hooper: 289-370)
Read Rosa Montero, “Political Transition and Cultural Democracy” *
We will analyze movie segments from “Torremolinos 73” (2005).
2/26: Revitalizing Rural Cultures: the Idealized Pueblo
Read Poems Selection from Antonio Machado, *Campos de Castilla*; Essay by Miguel de Unamuno on “Intra-Historia” *
Read Articles selection on “Pueblo Orgánico” *
2/28: The Spirit of the Village: the Essence of Spanish Culture?
Read José Álvarez Junco, “Rural and Urban Popular Cultures” *
Class will watch excerpts from Pedro Almodóvar’s “Volver” (2006)

3/2: Taking the Village in the City
Class will watch a second series of excerpts from Pedro Almodóvar’s “Volver” (2006)

MIDTERM TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE
SPRING BREAK begins on 3/2 and CLASS resumes on 3/12

THIRD PART: CONSTRUCTING CULTURAL IDENTITIES

3/12: Religious Identities and El Camino de Santiago
Read Introduction by Jo Labanyi (Labanyi: 1-14)
Read Frances Lannon, “Catholicism and Social Change” *

3/14: Religious Festivals: El Rocio, El Pilar
Read Frances Lannon, “The Social Praxis and Cultural Politics of Spanish Catholicism” *
Class will watch a short film documentary on the pilgrimage of El Rocio.

3/16: Crisis in Religious Faiths and the Continuation of Fiestas
Read Deborah Parsons, “Fiesta Culture in Madrid Posters” (Labanyi: 178-205)
Read Laura Kumin, “To live is to dance” *
Read press articles selection given by professor.

3/19: The Punk-to-Techno Culture
Read Roger D. Tinnell, “Spanish Music and Cultural Identity” *
Read Mark Allison, “Alaska, Star of Stage and Screen and Optimistic Punk” (Labanyi: 222-236). Songs from these two genres will be analyzed in class, along with movie excerpts.

3/21: Gay Culture: Sitges and Ibiza, a model for Gay Europe?
Read Chris Perriam, “Not writing straight, but not writing queer” (Labanyi: 154-170) and “Gay and Lesbian Culture” *
Class will watch excerpts from film “Ibiza Dream” (2004)

3/23: Feminine Cultures of the late 1990s and early 21st century
Read Anja Louis, “Melodramatic Feminism” (Labanyi: 87-112)
Read Jessamy Harvey, “Good Girls Go to Heaven” (Labanyi: 113-127)
Read Peter Williams Evans, “Victoria Abril” (Labanyi: 128-137)
Excerpts from films will be analyzed and discussed in class.
3/26: Subcultures I: Gypsy Spain and Flamenco
Read Lou Charnon-Deutsch, “Travels of the Imaginary Gypsy” (Labanyi: 22-41)
Read Parvati Nair, “Elusive Song” (Labanyi: 41-54)
Flamenco Songs will be analyzed in class.
3/28: Subcultures II: Other Latinos in Spain
Read Isabel Santaolalla, “Ethnic and Racial Configuration in Contemporary Spanish Culture” (Labanyi: 55-71). This class will focus on various art forms around the immigrant communities of inner-city Spain.

3/30: Subcultures III: Muslim Immigration in Rural Spain
Read press articles selection provided by professor. Class will watch excerpts from film “Exils” (2005)

4/2: Re-inventing regional identities: The Catalonian Nation
Read Antonio Sánchez, “Barcelona’s Magic Mirror” (Labanyi: 294-310)
Read Teresa M. Vilarós, “A cultural mapping of Catalonia” *
Class will look at art works from Gaudí, Miró and Dalí.

4/4: Basque Terr(ori)tories
Read Joseba Gabilondo, “Uncanny Identity” (Labanyi: 255-279)
Read Xon de Ros, “The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao” (Labanyi: 280-293)
Read Philip W. Silver, “The Basque Country” *
Read excerpts from Obabakoak by Bernardo Atxaga (2000)

4/11: Cultural Transformations in Galicia
Read Xelís de Toro, “Bagpipes and Digital Music: the Remixing of Galician Identity” (Labanyi: 237-254) and “Negotiating Galician Cultural Identity” *
Songs and film excerpts will be our starting point for discussion.

4/13: The Spanish South, Baleares and Canarias: Micro-Multiculturalism and Injection of European Cultures in Spain’s resorts
Read press articles selection give by professor

4/16: Spanish Culture Outside: the Construction of an Ideal in the Greater Europe
Read Cristina Mateo, “Identities at a Distance” (Labanyi: 72-86)
Read Peter W. Evans, “Culture and Cinema, 1975-1996” *
Excerpts from film “French twist” (1995) and “Sitcom” (1995); Songs by Manu Chao and Gypsy Kings

4/18 and 4/20: Classes are cancelled. Professor is out of town for a conference in Mexico. The two hours used on 2/19 make up for these two lost hours. However, students will use this time to get together in pairs, discuss their research papers, give each other feedback and prepare their short presentation.
4/23: Research paper presentations I
4/25: Research paper presentations II
4/27: Final Conclusions / RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON MAY 1st by NOON

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE DIVISION:

Credits received for this class: 3

PARTICIPATION TO CLASS DISCUSSION / ATTENDANCE = 20%
2 IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS ABOUT RELATED SOURCES OF STUDENT’S CHOICE (TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PROFESSOR IN OFFICE) = 30%
MIDTERM TAKE-HOME EXAM = 20%
RESEARCH PAPER = 30%

GRADING SCALE:

93-100 A  89-92 B+  80-88 B  76-89 C+  70-75 C  60-69 D  <60 F

OFFICE HOURS: MWF: 11-12
The professor expects the students to use these hours to discuss presentation structures and paper topics. They are not to be used to make-up for absences. If these hours do not work with your schedule, appointments for other time are possible.

PROFESSOR’S EMAIL ADDRESS: conrod@creighton.edu
OFFICE: HUMANITIES CENTER 222
TELEPHONE: (402) 280 – 3701

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Since this is a upper-division seminar-type course counting toward a major or a minor, conscientious participation and attendance are required. If you miss a class, you are expected to have the work for the next class completed. Excessive absences will result in the significant lowering of the final grade by a whole letter grade or possible failure. No more than three unexcused absences are allowed in this class. Emergencies which constitute an excused absence must be documented to the satisfaction of the professor. If you miss material because of absence, do not use the next class period to ask questions about what you have missed. You must make this up out of class and before the next class.

CLASS CANCELLATION:
If a class is cancelled for any reason and an assignment was due for that class, students will turn this assignment in professor’s box (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures).

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
This class will adhere to the policy on academic honesty as found in the current Creighton University Bulletin: Undergraduate Issue.

RECIPROCAL EXPECTATIONS:
The professor expects attendance in class, continuous participation in class activities, timely completion of assignments, careful preparation of material for class, careful review of material covered in class, and courteous treatment of the other members of the class and the professor. The students may expect careful preparation of the class by the professor, an evaluation system that relate to the material covered in class, a selection of documents that augment the material of the required texts, and access outside of class hours.