



CIEE Barcelona, Spain

Course name:	Spain Today: Politics & Society
Course number:	POLI 3002 BASP (ENG)
Programs offering course:	Barcelona Business and Culture, Barcelona Economics and Culture, Barcelona Global Architecture and Design, Barcelona Language and Culture
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

This course examines some of the major political, social and economic changes that took place in Spain since the end of Francisco Franco's dictatorship in 1975 until the present day. Hence, students will study Spain from an all-inclusive perspective, mixing different disciplines and theories with the aim of understanding Spain and its major characteristics, understanding the actual situation in its historical context.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course students will be fully prepared to understand the actual Spanish political context and to face any document written on contemporary Spain. Students will be provided with a solid background to establish comparisons to the USA and other modern countries and to understand similarities and differences.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

During the first half of the course, most of the sessions will consist of lectures given by the professor using a PowerPoint. This dynamic will change after the midterm exam. One movie will be watched, and students will use the contents of the film to hold a discussion on the ideas expressed in the movie. Two sessions will be spent reading academic articles and discussing the different ways in which the authors understood the same topics and the same changes. Students will write a paper on the reading. Students will also have to give a presentation on a document assigned by the professor at the beginning of the course. The presentation will not be longer than 20 minutes and the students can use PowerPoint, Prezi or equivalent.

Assessment and Final Grade

Final grade will be the result of an average of the following components:



1. Midterm Exam:	25%
2. Final Exam:	25%
3. Document Analysis:	20%
4. Documentary:	10%
5. Final Activity:	5%
6. Class Participation:	15%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam (25%)

This exam evaluates the first half of the semester in which students were exposed to the basic elements of the semester as well as they will be instructed in some of the major topics of the subject. Hence, this exam will be based on both, class notes and the handout provided by the professor during the first weeks of the semester (available in digital format). Forty multiple-choice questions will be provided with five optional answers each (a, b, c, d, e), being only one of them the right answer. Besides, there will be two questions to be answered in a limited space (5-7 lines) by the student. The two questions will be based on the readings (used as manual) assigned and provided by the professor.

Rules for the Exams (both midterm and final)

- No class notes allowed during exams.
- If students are caught cheating, the grade given for the semester will be 0.
- Answer the exams using pens, not pencils.
- Students will have 50 minutes per exam.
- The group will be divided into two groups to take exams.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will consist of 6 brief questions. Four of them will be based upon the books and the readings used in class, representing each one of these questions a 5%. Two other question will be based upon the movies watched in class, representing each one of these questions 2.5%.

The answers must be given in the space provided by the professor. None of the questions will represent more than half a page, the ideal space will be 4 or 5 lines each.

Reading Analysis (20%)

During the semester two documentaries will be watch and discussed in class. As well as the documentaries four days will be spent discussing readings that students will read at home and focus specially on the questions provided by the professor before the reading or movie. During the first three weeks of the semester students will sign up for one of the readings or documentaries and they will be responsible for the questions asked that day. In group of five, the students will have to work on the specific material and be able to answer any of the five questions asked by the professor. The session will be structured around the questions. The professor will ask one question to each of the students using an aleatory mechanism, so all the members should be able to answer any of the questions. This answer will be the source of information to study for the final exam. All the other



students, the ones who are not members of the group, should read all the texts since the sessions will be structured around the ideas and the main topics exposed in the text or movie. Showing respect to the work of others is a key feature in these sessions. If students who are not answering any of the questions show any disrespect towards the work of others or don't pay proper attention to the discussion will be penalized in the Participation section.

Documentary (10%)

Two documentaries will be watched in class during the semester. Once the documentaries are watched and discussed, students will be asked to answer two questions to evaluate the attention and interest paid during this activity. Each activity will be worth 5%. The questions asked about the documentaries will also be relevant for the midterm or final exam.

Final Activity (5%)

The last day of class there will be an activity based upon a movie or short reading. The student will have to answer a couple of questions to have this final 5%.

Class participation (15%)

In some sessions, attendance and participation is required. For example, the evaluation days with tests or the final exam are mandatory for obvious reasons, but also the sessions based upon readings or documentaries. These sessions will offer the chance to students to participate in debates and discussions, so attendance is basic to get a grade.

In addition to that, it is crucial for students to respect their classmates work, so it'll be of special importance to properly behave during the group sessions and to participate in the debate derived from those presentations.

Then, it is of an utmost importance to participate and cooperate in the development of the "managed sessions". Specially for those students assigned leadership among the audience.

Every time that a student is caught doing one of the following activities this grade will be reduced in 3 points:

- Drinking coffee or tea in class
- Using the phone, tablet or computer
- Falling asleep
- Arriving late or leaving early
- Making the learning process complicated for other students

It is totally forbidden to take pictures in class. All the slides will be posted online but also, we must respect the privacy of both, the professor and the students.

CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day's class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are



considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 5 class sessions, students' final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). **Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 5 absences).**

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

- 1.1 Orientation Week. Course description.
Introduction and Syllabus. Planning the semester.
- 1.2 Introduction to Spain
Geography and Peoples of Spain

Week 2

- 2.1 Introduction to Spain
Some Basic Ideas to understand the Complexity of Spain
- 2.2 The Difficult Spanish Modernization
Francisco Franco's dictatorship was just another chapter in the difficult Spanish Modernization.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Franco Regime, 1939-1975*; pp. 42-65.]

Week 3

- 3.1 The end and survival of Francoism
Francoism fought terrorism (ETA), popular opposition and Economic Unrest.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Franco Regime, 1939-1975*; pp. 65-73.]
- 3.2 The Transition to Democracy (1975-1982)
The King and Adolfo Suárez
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982*; pp. 74-91.]

Week 4

- 4.1 The Transition to Democracy (1975-1982)
The Constitution and the Chambers
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982*; pp. 92-101.]
- 4.2 Political Parties in Spain before the year 2000
The Transition to Democracy had its own players and political power houses.

Week 5

- 5.1 Political Parties in Spain after the year 2000
The Spanish society is changing very fast since the beginning of the 21st century and some parties try to monopolize these disruptive ideas.
Lucía Medina. *From Recession to Long Lasting Political Crisis? Continuities and Changes in Spanish Politics in Times of Crisis and Austerity*. ICPS, UAB. Barcelona. 2015.
- 5.2 Politics and Society in Catalonia and the Basque Country
Who is who and who does what in these two fundamental territories.
Xavier Coller. *Political Elites in Federalized Countries: The Case of Spain (1980-2005)*. Center for European Studies Working Paper Series #146. 2007.

Week 6

- 6.1 Politics and Society in Catalonia and the Basque Country
Who is who and who does what in these two fundamental territories.
- 6.2 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 7

- 7.1 **INTRODUCTION AND DOCUMENTARY**
Cien años de perdón
- 7.2 **DOCUMENTARY AND PAPER**
Cien años de perdón
Turn in paper via Canvas.

Week 8

- 8.1 Felipe González, 1982-1996
After over 40 years of conservative governments the Socialists took office to modernize Spain.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982*; pp. 102-120.]
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.

- 8.2 Felipe González, 1982-1996
Corruption posed an enormous threat to the Socialists image since many cases began to be aired.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982*; pp. 120-130.]
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.

Week 9

- 9.1 José María Aznar, 1996-2004
The newly reformed conservatives won the elections in 1996 with a hung parliament and the need for Nationalist support softened some of the policies of the PP.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982*; pp. 131-139.]
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.
- 9.2 José María Aznar, 1996-2004
The Absolute Majority in the year 2000 radicalized some of the policies of the PP. Besides, the policies towards George Bush since the year 2002 polarized the Spanish public opinion.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Transition to Democracy, 1975-1982*; pp. 140-153.]
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.

Week 10

- 10.1 José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, 2004-2011
This socialist leader called himself a Republican and tried to lead a second transition with uneven results.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Socialists Strike Back, 2004-2011*; pp. 154-171.]
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.
- 10.2 José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, 2004-2011
The Collapse of Zapatero's presidency came with the economic crisis and the poor management made by his party.
William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013. [*The Socialists Strike Back, 2004-2011*; pp. 171-186.]
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.

Week 11

- 11.1 Mariano Rajoy, 2011-2018
Rajoy won the elections promising to reduce unemployment and to bring back prosperity. The Catalan Question derailed provoking the worst constitutional crisis since 1978.
Bonnie N. Field PhD in political science, Alfonso Botti (eds.). *Politics and Society in Contemporary Spain. From Zapatero to Rajoy*. New York. Palgrave MacMillan. 2013.



[Bonnie N. Field and Alfonso Botti. *Introduction: Political Change in Spain, from Zapatero to Rajoy*. 1-20]

Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.

- 11.2 Pedro Sánchez (2018-)
The Socialist Leader Sánchez won a confidence vote against Rajoy and became the Spanish President because of the prevalent Spanish corruption.
Students will be explaining the text and the professor guiding.

Week 12

- 12.1 **DOCUMENTARY**
El lobo
- 12.2 **DOCUMENTARY**
El lobo
Turn in paper via Canvas.

Week 13

- 13.1 **FINAL EXAM**
- 13.2 Closing Session

Course Materials

Manual for the Class

William Chislett. *Spain. What everyone needs to know*. London: OUP. 2013.
Bonnie N. Field, Alfonso Botti (eds.). *Politics and Society in Contemporary Spain. From Zapatero to Rajoy*. New York. Palgrave MacMillan. 2013.

Mandatory Readings

Lucía Medina. *From Recession to Long Lasting political Crisis? Continuities and Changes in Spanish Politics in Times of Crisis and Austerity*. ICPS, UAB. Barcelona. 2015.
Ludger Mees. *Politics, economy or Culture? The rise and development of Basque Nationalism in the Light of Social Movement Theory*. *Theory and Society*, 33: 311-331 (2004).
José M. Magone. *Contemporary Spanish Politics*. London: Routledge, 2004.
Manuel Iglesias-Cavicholi. *A Period of Turbulent Change: Spanish-US Relations since 2002*. *The Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*. Summer/Fall 2007.
Ministerio de la Presidencia. *Spain today 2015*. Madrid: Gobierno de España, 2015.
VVAA. *20 years of Spain in the European Union, 1986-2006*. Madrid: Real Instituto Elcano and the European Parliament, 2006.

Recommended Readings



- William Chislett. *The Internationalization of the Spanish Economy*. Madrid: Real Instituto Elcano, 2003.
- David. T. Gies. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge. 1999.
- Montserrat Guibernau. *Catalan Nationalism. Francoism, Transition and Democracy*. London: Routledge, 2004.
- Barry A. Kosmin & Ariela Keysar (Eds.). *The Mediterranean World in the 21st century*. Hartford: ISSSC, 2009. [pp.9-56; 165-212].
- Alfonso Pérez-Agote. *The Social Roots of Basque Nationalism*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2006.
- Javier Tusell. *Spain: from Dictatorship to Democracy, 1939 to the Present*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.
- Teun A. van Dijk. *Racism and Discourse in Spain and in Latin America*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2005.
- Mary Vincent. *Spain, 1833-2002. People and State*. London: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- VVAA. *Media and Nationalism. The Basque, the Catalan, the Northern Ireland and the Scottish Case*. Vic: Eumo, 200