



## **CIEE Alicante, Spain**

<b>Course name:</b>	Contemporary Spanish Society: Politics, Culture, and Economy
<b>Course number:</b>	HISP 3002 ALSP
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Alicante Language and Culture
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	45
<b>Term:</b>	Spring 2020

### **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the most important aspects of Spain and Contemporary Spanish Society. Our study will be focused on some specific aspects which make the country both appealing and richly varied: the ancestral monarchy restored after a long dictatorship, the organization in autonomous communities which may be seen as a solution to historical conflicts, the fact that it is one of the main tourist destinations in the world and, at the same time, the country of Don Quijote, Lorca, Almodóvar, etc. All these features of life, history and politics will be analyzed throughout the course.

### **Learning Objectives**

With an emphasis on the present-day, but setting the examination of institutions and attitudes in their historical context, this course offers an introduction to contemporary Spanish culture so that students can become familiar with the social, economic and political structures of Spain today. At the end of the course, students are able to discuss relevant issues facing Spain today with a satisfactory level of understanding and to identify and comment on the major social players in Spanish society including individuals and institutions.

### **Course Prerequisites**

None

### **Methods of Instruction**

This course combines lectures, class discussions, writing assignments, individual/team research and oral presentations. Students will read the assigned material (articles, handouts, news, etc.) in class to be prepared to debate. Also, they will have to be up-to-day on current events in order to talk about in class. Participation is essential for the final grade.

### **Assessment and final grade**

Participation	10%
Homework (writing assignments)	20%
Research Paper	20%



Topic and bibliography	2%
Outline	4 %
Final draft	10%
Presentation	4%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

## **Course Requirements**

### **Homework**

Students will complete daily written assignments and come to class prepared and motivated to participate in class discussions and activities.

### **Midterm and final exam**

Exams will consist of four sections. The first section will include 10 multiple-choice questions. The second will include a text, followed by a few comprehension and analytical questions. The third section will include an example of Spanish pop culture followed by a few questions to test the students' comprehension of its significance. The fourth section will require a writing analysis of one of the topics covered in class. Students are expected to construct a coherent reflection that integrates their interpretation of the text and their knowledge of the topic and the period referred to.

### **Research Paper**

One research paper on a topic related to the ones seen in class will be sent by email to the professor as well as a hard copy, submitted **in class**. Format: 4,000 words, one sided, Times New Roman 12 or similar, 1.5-spaced. At least three bibliographic references are required (at least one scholarly paper or book, and newspaper articles, government reports or any other materials similar to the ones seen in class); both electronic materials and printed work should be cited in the bibliography (any style). Both topic and bibliographic references will have to be handed in and approved by the professor in advance (see due dates below). A one-page outline of the paper will be submitted in advance (see dates below). Students will deliver a 10-minute talk based on their research paper. Presentations will then be followed by a question period, during which the presenter will respond to any questions from the professor or fellow students.

## **CIEE ACADEMIC POLICIES**

### **Papers and assignments submission**

According to CIEE Alicante academic norms all assignments, paper, readings, etc. must be turned in on the due date. Late submissions of coursework/assignments during the course of the term of study are not accepted.

If an exception is granted by the Academic Director, the new deadline for the assignment will be set for the next earliest possible date for the student for reasonably submit the assignment.



### Course Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program. Students must notify (via e-mail with a copy to the Resident Director or Program Coordinator) their instructor beforehand if they will miss class for any reason. Students are responsible for any materials covered in class during their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the professor and the RD or PC and provide appropriate documentation.

For CIEE courses, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent (student will be reminded of the policy). Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or events, etc. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused.

An absence in a CIEE course will be only considered excused if:

1. A doctor's note is provided. The UA medical center does not generally provide class absence notes. In the case a doctor's absence note is extremely necessary, students will need to go to the Vithas International Hospital to be examined.
2. A CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
3. Evidence is provided of a family emergency

Persistent absenteeism (students exceeding 10% of the total course hours missed, or violations of the attendance policy in more than one class) will lead to a written warning from the RD, notification to the home school, and/or dismissal from the program in addition to reductions in class grade(s).

1. Since each CIEE Alicante course is 45 hours, 10% of the total course hours are 4.5 hours.
2. Students who miss more than 4.5 hours of class without justification will see their final grade reduced by -5%. For instance, students achieving a grade of 89.00 out of 100 points and missing more than 4.5 hours of class will see their grade reduced from 89.00 (B+) to 84.00 (B).

Students with unexcused absences exceeding 20% of the total course hours will fail the course. Written warnings and home school notifications will happen well before the absenteeism causes the student to fail the course so that the student has an opportunity for corrective actions.

Likewise, if any CIEE group organized activity/informational session (e.g. Intercultural development sessions) is scheduled during class hours, attendance to this activity or session is also mandatory for all students enrolled in courses that meet during that block of time. Not attending these CIEE group organized activities/sessions during regular class hours will result in an absence.

### Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment may result in failing the course or being expelled from the program. Students are expected to adhere to the US American and norms.

Important principles:



1. Final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from other person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).
2. The same written paper may not be submitted in more than one course.
3. Any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with the course

#### Add/Drop

The add/drop period last for 1 week after the start of the courses. After the end of the add/drop period, the student’s registration is considered final, and no course(s) may be changed or deleted from the student’s CIEE Academic Record.

#### Withdrawal from a course

Students are required to register in 5 courses during their studies at CIEE Alicante. Each CIEE course is worth 3 credits (45 contact hours) and each Universidad de Alicante course is worth 4 credits (60h - unless the course has more than 60h of instruction). If exceptional circumstances warrant, the student may request permission from the Center Director to withdraw from a course. However, a student participating in a semester program is not allowed to drop below 12 US semester credits.

#### Weekly Schedule

##### **Week 1**

- 1.1 Presentation, Introduction to the class, Spanish symbols and stereotypes, Territorial organization
- 1.2 Unit 1: Spain in context. The formation of Contemporary Spain. The abolition of the seigneurial regime, the Constitution of 1812, the liberal revolution. Find and explain with your own words one current news about Spain (online or paper newspapers: *El Pais*, *El Mundo*, *La Vanguardia*)

##### **Week 2**

- 2.1 Unit 2: Geography of Spain. Some basic ideas to understand the complexity of Spain. Geography and peoples of Spain. Reading articles from different newspapers (*El País*, *ABC*, *El Mundo*, *El Periódico*, etc.).
- 2.2 Unit 3: State and politics, Government, the Monarchy. From the system of the Restoration and the end of the Spanish Empire to the Civil War. Reading Spanish and European government reports.

##### **Week 3**

- 3.1 Unit 3 (continued): State and politics. The Difficult Spanish Modernization

Francisco Franco's dictatorship was just another chapter in the difficult Spanish Modernization. Francoism fought terrorism (ETA), popular opposition and Economic Unrest.

Reading: William Chislett. Spain. What everyone needs to know. London: OUP. 2013.

Screening of the movie "El Lobo" (2005) by Miguel Courtois.

3.2 Unit 4: Government. The Monarchy. Political parties: "old" and "new". The Transition to Democracy (1975-1982). The King and Adolfo Suárez

Reading: William Chislett. Spain. What everyone needs to know. London: OUP. 2013.

#### Week 4

4.1 Political Trends. Main political figures. The 1978 Constitution. Current political news.

Review: Practice test

4.2 Final paper topic and bibliography

#### Week 5

5.1 Midterm Exam

5.2 Unit 5: Financial crisis; causes and economic consequences. "Spain is different", brief history of Spain and how certain history facts conditioned the economic development of Spain.

#### Week 6

6.1 Unit 5: The social consequences of the financial crisis. Daily life. Routines and rituals. Traditions and customs. Social relations.

6.2 Field trip

#### Week 7

7.1 Unit 6: Family, housing and education. The youth of Spain as a unique group. Main characteristics and analysis

7.2 Unit 7: Religious diversity. National-Catholic Thought. The Church in Spain. The woman in Franco's Regime.

Sharing current news

Outline deadline

#### Week 8

8.1 Unit 8: Race issues in Spain. Minorities in Spain. Terrorist attacks in Madrid and Barcelona. Raise of islamofobia

Final paper outline

8.2 The Gypsies in Spain.

Screening of the BBC's documentary "Flamenco Gypsy Soul".



### **Week 9**

- 9.1 Unit 9: Cultural diversity: festivities, bullfighting, sports. Sports and hobbies in Spain. Leisure time. Festivities calendar in Spain. Holidays in Spain.
- 9.2 Unit 10: Health and Education in Spain.

### **Week 10**

- 10.1 Unit 11: Ethnic diversity: immigrant and non-immigrant minorities. Discussion of the movie: *Las cartas de Alou*
- 10.2 Unit 12: Gender issues: gender roles and gender (in)equality, LGBTBI rights and challenges. Current situation of women. Violence in Spain.

### **Week 11**

- 11.1 Gender issues in Spain. Screening of a movie by Pedro Almodovar
- 11.2 Oral Presentations

### **Week 12**

- 12.1 Oral Presentations  
Final paper
- 12.2 Review

### **Week 13**

- 13.1 Final Exam

## **Course Materials**

### **Readings**

Reading package including a variety of materials: Spanish (*El País, ABC, El Mundo, El Periódico*, etc.), Spanish and European government reports, and scholarly articles.

### **Media Resources**

*El Lobo*, Miguel Courtois.

*Te doy mis ojos*, Iciar Bollaín.

*Tapas*, José Corbacho, Juan Cruz.

*Las cartas de Alou*, Montxo Armendáriz.