Course title: Geographies, people and society
Language of instruction: English
Professor: Rosa Cerarols
Professor's contact and office hours: rosa.cerarols@upf.edu
Monday-Wednesday 11:00-12:00
Course contact hours: 45
Recommended credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits
Course prerequisites: list here the course content prerequisites, i.e. “there are no prerequisites for this course” or “International Business I”

Language requirements: None

Course description:
This course introduces the reality of Spanish society and economy from a geographical perspective. The classes will combine thematic and regional approaches as well as some in-depth case studies. The main goal of the course is to introduce students to the realities and peculiarities of Spanish society stressing regional differences and the similarities with international economic, social and political trends. By the end of the course students will be able to understand the most significant events of Spanish society and they will also have a geographic background in which to integrate their other studies during their time in Spain. Most of the topics will be treated from a very current perspective, using recent events from newspapers or TV news as examples. Topics will include the peculiarities of the Spanish political structure, with special emphasis on the regional level; the changes in the demographic structure of Spain, and the increasing role of women in society; the labour market and the effects of migration (internal and international), the role of real estate and tourism in the economic development of Spain, and the relationship between culture and political power in modern Spain.

Learning objectives:
At the end of the course, students will be able to deal with any Spanish information or situation of the last 30 years and understand how Spain changed from being a pre-modern country to a post-modern culture (maybe faster than any other Western Country). At the same time, by comparing Spanish History and Present to U.S. History and Present students will be able to compare both Civilizations and understand some of the most important differences between one Euro Mediterranean culture and one multicultural country.

Course workload: Describe the type of workload here: readings, lectures, exams, field studies...
Methods of instruction:
Each session will be divided into two parts. Professor will give during the first 50 minutes specific information and readings to use during the rest of the class. So, this class has a seminar session format. Students will have to collaborate if they want to have the Attendance and Participation 10%.

Method of assessment
Midterm exam: 30% (short questions and text/images commentary)
Final exam: 30% (comprehensive)
Class participation: 10%
Term paper (and paper draft): 30%

Absence policy
Excused absences will only be justified by an official medical report or probable family emergency. Any other reason will not justify an absence to class or changing the date of an exam. The absence policy is the following:
3 absences: Student loses one point out of ten.
4 absences: Student loses two points out of ten.
5 absences or more: Student receives an “Incomplete” for the course

Classroom norms:
- No food or drink is permitted in class
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one one-hour session
- Students must come to class prepared to participate fully in the day’s activities

Weekly schedule
Session 1: Introduction to the course. Topics for oral presentations and essays.


Required readings:


Session 3: Spain in the World (II). The evolution of Spain as an international actor: From Francoist isolation to Spain’s EU entrance

Required readings:


Required readings:

Session 5: The Physical Environment. (II). Environmental management in Spain

Required readings:


Session 6: Spanish Political Geography (I): The political and Administrative organization of Spain: State, Nation, Regions

Required readings:


Session 7: Spanish Political Geography (II): The Autonomous Communities: a new geographical scale of government

Required readings:

Session 8: VISIT TO THE CATALAN PARLIAMENT or THE BARCELONA CITY HALL. Depending on the schedule we can also organize the visit to a city hall in one of the towns of the metropolitan area.


Required readings:

Session 10:

Film Viewing: Julio Medem 2004 La Pelota Vasca: La piel contra la piedra


Required readings:


Session 12: Spain’s economic Geography (II): the role of tourism and the real state in the Spanish economy.


Session 13: Spanish Rural Landscapes (I). The evolution of Agriculture in Spain: the changing role of women in agriculture

Session 14: Spanish Rural Landscapes(II). Culture and tradition in the agricultural regions of Spain: the cultures of wine, olive oil, cheese and ham.

Visit to the Codorniu wine cellars

Session 15: Spain’s Population Geography (I): Changing structure of the population. Social effects of recent demographic trends

Required readings:


Session 16: Spain’s Population Geography (II): Changes in the structure of labor

Required readings:

Session 17: Migration in Spain, recent trends.

Required readings:

Session 18: Migration on Film

Viewing of a film that shows the effects of migration on the territory and society.

Carlos Iglesias 2006 Un Franco 14 pesetas

Session 19: MID TERM EXAM


Required readings:


Session 21: Spain’s cultural Geography (I): Language and territories in Spain

Required readings:

Session 22: Spain’s cultural Geography (II): Cultural Politics and music. The example of the “Nova Canço”

Required readings:


Session 23: Students’ final presentations.

Session 24: Final Exam

Recommended bibliography:


