Cultures & Contexts: Spain: At the Crossroads of Europe, North Africa, and America (in English)

Class code
CORE-UA.9544.001 Cultures and Contexts: At the Crossroads of Europe, North Africa, and America

Instructor Details
Professor: Eugenio Suárez-Galbán
Email: esg8@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Mon.: 2:20-3:00; Wed.: 4:30-5:00

Class Details
Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-4:20pm

Prerequisites
N/A

Class Description
Taking advantage of its location in Madrid, this course analyzes the ways in which historical, geopolitical, cultural, artistic, and popular views function to constitute and continuously transform a national culture. Specifically, the course concentrates on epistemological constructions of Spain—the idea of Spain—that emerges from competing external and internal perspectives. Students will examine in three modules how this national culture is constructed. The first analyzes Spain from North African perspectives as, on the one hand, the traditional site and myth of a lost paradise in Sephardic circles as well as in Hispano-Arabic literary traditions and, on the other, as a social collective which some contemporary historical interpretations view as a fairly unique, positive integration of different ethnic components. The second module looks at American perspectives in which the idea of Spain pits notions of Spanish imperial power and grandeur against the Black Legend, a term that Protestant circles in Europe and the United States promoted to attack the legitimacy of Spain’s New World empire. The third perspective focuses on European views and analyzes the depiction of Spain as the embodiment of German and French Romantic ideals beginning at the end of the 18th century and the reemergence of the same notion during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39). Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to examine some of the principal textual and visual images that contribute to the historical and contemporary construction of a national culture that emerged at geographic and cultural crossroads.

Desired Outcomes
In addition to the cultural knowledge of the three ethnic groups to be studied in their multiple dimensions – history, national culture and civilization, sociology, religion, politics -, the course will also provide a study of the process of cultural transference and miscegenation involved in the creation of a new social collective.

Assessment Components
There will be a midterm, 2 short papers, a final more extensive paper, and a final exam.

Grading Policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short paper 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>
Statement on Provisions to students with disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

Attendance Policy

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade for every week’s worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.

Classes meeting twice a week:
2% deduction from the student’s final course grade on the occasion of the second unexcused absence.
Every subsequent absence carries a 1% grade deduction.

Statement on Religious Observance

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Late Submission of Work

Attendance and active participation are essential and contribute significantly to the final grade.

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.
At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

**Plagiarism**: presenting others’ work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one’s own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks
- an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another’s work
- the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one’s own
- submitting evaluations of group members’ work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member
- altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.

For further information, students are encouraged to check [www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html)

**Required Text(s) in Print Form**

All texts will be available on NYU Classes.

**Required Text(s) available via NYU Classes**


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Jackson, Gabriel. “The Beginnings of International Intervention.” *The Spanish Republic and the Civ
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SUGGESTED READING


Cultures & Contexts: Spain: At the Crossroads of Europe, North Africa, and America (in English)


Books for further consultation will be placed on reserve in the library

**Session 1**

**September 7th**

**Introduction**


**Session 2**

**September 9th**

**Module 1: Spain from Perspectives of Sephardim and Al-Andalus**

**Medieval Spain: Paradise Lost for the Moors and the Sephardic Jews**


Session 3
September 14th


Session 4
September 16th


SEFARAD


Session 5
September 21st


Session 6
September 23rd


Session 7
September 28th

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The Spanish Inquisition/The Black Legend

Session 8
September 30th

Short paper on Module one due

The Spanish Inquisition/The Black Legend

Module 2: Spain and the Americas

The Spanish Conquest and its Interpretations.


Session 9
October 5th


Session 10
October 7th


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Session 11
October 14th


Session 12
October 19th


The United States Legacy


Session 13
October 21st

Transculturation


### Session 14
**October 23rd (FRIDAY)**

**The Bourbons**


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### Session 15
**October 26th**

**Short Paper due on Module 2**

**Romantic Spain**


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### Session 16
**October 28th**

**End of Empire**


Ucelay Da Cal, Enric. “The Nationalism of the Periphery: Culture and Politics in the Construction
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**Session 19**
November 11th

Towards the Civil War


**Session 20**
November 13th (FRIDAY)


**Session 21**
November 16th


**Session 22**
November 18th


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**Session 23**
November 23rd

No class

**Session 24**
November 25th

No class: paper due next session Monday on Toledo trip

**Session 25**
November 30th


**Session 26**
December 2nd


**Session 27**
December 7th


**Session 28**
December 9th

Final Paper due


There will be a class trip to Toledo on November 20th. A paper on the trip will be due on November 30th. We will also be on the lookout for any activities in Madrid – lectures, film theatre, etc. – that may deal with the course subjects.