

Understanding Spain through History and Art

Idioma: English

Course Description

The main goal of this course is to offer a journey through the cultures that took place in Spain so that the students can understand all the peoples that were part of the country and that evolve to create the plural Spain of our days. To do so, we will see the historical evolution of Spain, emphasizing the cultural aspects, mainly Art.

And how, throughout this process, the foundations of the current problems were laid, some already resolved, such as Basque terrorism, and others pending a solution, such as the desire for Catalan independence. The idea is that the student understand that the current Spain is the result of the meetings and disagreements of multiple peoples and cultures that were shaping the current reality of a country that today is, at the same time, simple and complex, homogeneous and heterogeneous.

Teaching Methodology

Each session will consist of a presentation of the topic combining lecture format and discussion through images in a power point to which the students will be asked to participate. Also, at least two class will take place during this period so that students can enhance their knowledge on more specific topics.

The class will be complemented with visits to the main monuments and museums of the city.

Assessment Criteria

Mid-term exam: 35%

2 Class activities: 20%

Class participation: 10%

Final exam: 35%

Program content

1. Introduction. Origin of Spain. The first settlers. Paleolithic, Neolithic and Metal Age

3. The Hispanic area: Iberians and Celts. Tartessos. The colonisation.

5. Roman empire: The conquest of the Peninsula. Hispania. The Roman Legacy.

7. The Visigoths in Spain.

8. Islam and its expansion in the Mediterranean area. Al Andalus.

9. The Christian kingdoms. Feudalism. Romanesque art.

11. Medieval plenitude: Christian kingdoms against Islam. Gothic art.

12. The great crises. Wars, plagues, famine. The Late Middle Ages in Europe and Spain. The Catholic Monarchs.

13. The empire of Charles I and the house of Austria. The great Baroque painters and sculptors: Zurbarán, Ribera, Velázquez, etc.

15. Absolutism. The war of succession in the Spanish crown. The Bourbons in Spain.

16. The crisis of the Old Regime. The reign of Charles IV and the War of Independence. The culture of Enlightenment. Goya

17. The reigns of Ferdinand VII and Isabel II. The independence of the American colonies. Political unstableness. The triumph of liberalism.

18. Spanish first and second Republic. Dictatorship of Primo de Rivera. Civil War. Picasso. Dalí.

19. The dictatorship of Franco. Social conflict. The transition to Democracy. The constitution of 1978

20. Spain as a part of the European Union. The challenges of the 21st century.

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