Politics of Spain (2016)

COURSE OVERVIEW
Title: Politics of Spain
Prerequisites: none
Hours: 50
Number of Credits: 5
Type of Course: PS
Term: Winter, Spring, Summer
Language: English
Instructor: Dr. Hiram José Irizarry Osorio
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Course Description
This course examines major social, political, and economic changes in Spain (Catalunya & Euskadi). With an emphasis on the last 30 years, this seminar-style course will aim to understand different explanations of current Spanish Politics and Society. Therefore, this course is geared to all students who want to understand the changes that have taken place in Spain (with a focus on Catalunya and Euskadi) during the last years since the Democratic transition. Nevertheless, the Spanish Second Republic, its demise, the Spanish Civil War, and Franco’s regime will be discussed since they are of essence to understand Spain’s current status. The role and relevance of ontological thinking for the purpose of understanding and explaining social reality will be a common intellectual thread throughout the semester. A cultural component, (films, related to Spanish politics), will be part of this course.

Learning Outcomes
To familiarize students with current realities in post-transition Spain and understand how Spain has changed (i.e. progress and ongoing problems). At the same time, by comparing Spain to the U.S., students will be able to underscore similarities between both societies and understand some of the most important differences between them.

Assessment Criteria
Daily class attendance, four critical essays (70%), an in-class final presentation (20%), and a critical essay assessing a classmate’s work (10%).

Sessions

Session 1:
Introduction to the course

Session 2: Social Science: Cartesian or Quantum?

Alexander Wendt (1999), “Four sociologies of international politics” in Social Theory in International Politics, pp. 1-44 (FOCUS on pages 22-40)

Session 3:
Understanding concepts: modern state, nation, nationalism, development, democracy, non-democratic regimes.

- Understanding concepts: Richard English, Irish Freedom: The History of Nationalism in Ireland; pp. 11-21
- Benedict Anderson Imagined communities; pp. 1-7
- Juan J. Linz & Alfred Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-communist Europe; pp. 3-15; 16-37

Session 4:
Spanish Second Republic

- Julian Casanova (2010). The Spanish Republic and Civil war
  “Introduction,” pp. 1-5
  Part I "Republic," pp. 9-149

Session 5:
Spanish Civil War

- Paul Preston (2006). The Spanish civil war
  “Introduction”, pp. 1-16
  ""The Map of Spain Bleeds": From coup d'Etat to civil war," pp. 102-134
  "Franco's Peace," pp. 301-318
  "Epilogue," pp. 319-325


Session 6:
Franco's Regime
Session 7:
Spain's transition (& consolidation of) to Democracy

Transition to democracy in Spain
- Juan J. Linz & Alfred Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and consolidation: Southern Europe South America, and Post-Communist Europe; pp. 87-115;139-147
- John Hooper, The New Spaniards, 'From Dictatorship to Democracy;' pp. 26-34

Post-Transition Spain: Catalunya & Euskadi

Session 8:
Catalan & Basque nationalism in historical perspective (& under Franco)

Catalan & Basque Nationalism in perspective
- Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, "From the Founding of Catalan Nationalism to the civil war;" pp. 11-43
- Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, "Basque Nationalism from its Beginnings to the Civil war;" pp. 44-79

Catalan & Basque Nationalism under Franco
- Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, "Euskadi: Dictatorship, Resistance and Resurrection;" pp. 80-108
- Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, 'Catalonia under Franco;' pp.109-140

Session 9: In-class film, TBA.

Session 10: Students' In-class presentations.
Catalan & Basque nationalism & transition, and challenges
- Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, "The Transition to Democracy: From clandestine Action to the European community (1975-1986);" pp. 141-161
• Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, "Nationalism and Immigration in Catalonia and the Basque country;' pp. 187-221
• Daniel Conversi: The Basques, the Catalans and Spain, "Language and other values;" pp. 162-186

Session 11: Final Assessment day and course's wrap-up
THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL READINGS, MODIFY THE READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND/OR MODIFY GRADING ACTIVITIES.

Texts