Spanish History: From the Age of Conquest and Empire to the Present
(2019-2020)

COURSE OVERVIEW
Title: Spanish History: From the Age of Conquest and Empire to the Present
Prerequisites: None
Number of Credits: 5
Hours: 50
Type of Course: HIST (HIST 399 PSU course number)
Terms: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer
Language: English
Instructor: Dr. Marina Díaz-Cristobal
Email: mdiazcri@gmail.com

Course Description
This course will cover the history of Spain from its emergence as a “composite monarchy” in the fifteenth century to the present day. We will begin with the age of exploration and the creation of the world’s largest empire since the time of Alexander the Great under the Habsburgs. We will continue with the decline of Spain during Europe’s Thirty Years’ War and then move to the reconstruction of the state under the Bourbon monarchy in the eighteenth century. The latter third of the course will cover the modern period focusing on liberalism, economic development, social change, civil war, Francoism, and the transition to democracy. Along the way, we will touch upon a variety of themes, including religion, the Inquisition (and its abolition), backwardness, the “Black Legend,” regional differentiation, and women in society. This is an introductory course that does not require broad knowledge of European history. Students, though, must keep up with the readings in order to be able to follow the lectures and understand the material.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course, the student:

- Will have acquired survey knowledge of the history of Spain from the colonial era to the present.

- Will have become versed in the theoretical skills necessary for analyzing modern historical problems.

- Will have developed strategies for understanding contemporary Spain within its historical context.

Assessment Criteria
The class meets during 10 sessions, nine of which will be dedicated to content while the last will consist of class presentations and an exam. During each 3 hour session, the class will be divided into two lectures (each of 50 minutes), two ten minute breaks, and a seminar discussing the seminar reading (1 hour).
Final Paper and Presentation:
The final paper should run between six and eight pages (double spaces; standard margins). During the initial weeks of class, the professor will hand out a series of paper topics. Student may choose their own paper topic with instructor approval. The brief presentation (10 to 15 minutes) will cover the paper topic.

Evaluation
Class Participation: 25 percent
Final Paper 25 percent
Final Exam 40 percent
Presentation 10 percent

Sessions
Session/Week 1
Lecture: Introduction to the History of Spain
Lecture: The Creation of the Composite Monarchy

Session/Week 2
Lecture: The Age of Exploration.
Lecture: The Creation of an American Empire.

Session/Week 3
Lecture: Spain During the Counter-Reformation.
Lecture: Spain in the Age of the Europe’s Thirty Years’ War.
Background Reading: Henry Kamen, “Vicissitudes of a World Power, 1500-1700,” in *Spain a History*, 152-172.

Session/Week 4
Lecture: Spain in the Eighteenth Century.
Session/Week 5
Lecture: Liberal Spain.
Lecture: Society and Economy in the Nineteenth Century.

Session/Week 6
Lecture: The Spanish American War of 1898.

Session/Week 7
Lecture: The Spanish Civil War.
Lecture: The Francoist Repression.
Background Reading: Sebastian Balfour, “Spain from 1931 to the Present,” in Spanish History since 1808, 243-82.

Session/Week 8
Lecture: Francoism: The Desarrollo Years.
Lecture: The Transition to Democracy.

Session/Week 9
Lecture: Spain from the Transition to Today.
Lecture: Spain Today in a Historical Perspective.
Session/Week 10
Presentations and Final Exam.

Texts
For each week, students will be responsible for two reading assignments. “Background reading” will not be discussed in class, but students must have this read in advance of the lecture. The “seminar reading” will be discussed in class. The professor will hand out questionnaires to advance to aid students in preparing the seminar readings.