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
4. The Visigoths in Spain.
8. The great crises. Wars, plagues, famine. The Late Middle Ages in Europe and Spain. The Catholic Monarchs.
9. The empire of Charles I and the house of Austria. The great Baroque painters and sculptors: Zurbarán, Ribera, Velázquez, etc.
12. The reigns of Ferdinand VII and Isabel II. The independence of the American colonies. Political unstablleness. The triumph of liberalism.

Bibliography

PAYNE, Stanley G., Spain, A Unique History, University of Wisconsin, 2011.
