CU250: Spain and the Americas  
IES Abroad Madrid  

DESCRIPTION:
The aim of this course is to analyze the main historical events that, from Spain’s arrival in the Americas (1492) until the Spanish-American War (1898), have linked the history of Spain to the American continent. The objective is to learn in-depth the Spanish-Latin American relationships from the end of the fifteenth century until the end of the nineteenth century, and the main reciprocal influences between them in the field of policy, culture and history. The classes and course-related trips will help students understand the evolution of these relations through the analysis of literature, exhibitions, architecture and films.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- Lectures
- Class discussions
- Course-related trip
- Class participation

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Midterm exam - 30%
- Final exam - 30%
- Term paper - 30%
- Participation - 10%

Midterm Exam
The exam will cover the material from lectures, readings and our class discussion. The exam will consist of three essay questions. Students will choose two for which they will develop in detail thoughtful arguments with supporting details. Each of these two questions will have a maximum score of 50 points over 100.

Final Exam
The final will cover the material from lectures, our readings and our class discussion. It will follow the same format as the midterm exam and will require students to make comparisons across all periods and subjects studied during the semester. Each of these two questions will have a maximum score of 50 points over 100.

Term Paper
Students must turn in a 3750-word original critical analysis paper (double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman). This paper is to have a clear introduction and historical thesis, and it should demonstrate students’ knowledge garnered from the reading and class materials in order to answer the question posed by the professor on the syllabus. All response papers must use proper historical citation (Chicago style). If you do not attend class the day a paper is due, please email it to me.

Participation
Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings, prepared thoughts on the study questions, and/or viewed the assigned films.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Identify and describe the key historical moments that define the relationship between Latin America and Spain.
- Demonstrate awareness of the influence that the historical events have had on various cultures as well as their socio-political importance.
- Assess the historical relationship that, from the fifteenth century onward, has taken place between Spain and Latin America.
- Contextualize the legacy of this time period upon both contemporary Spain and Latin America.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related excursions. Any exams, tests, presentations, or any work missed due to student absences, can only be justified in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course, three percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

CONTENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>The birth of Spain: from Middle Ages to Modern Era</td>
<td>Watch the film <em>El Cid</em> (1961 by Anthony Mann)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Christopher Columbus: enigma and project. Toscanelli and other enemies of his ideas.</td>
<td>Watch the film <em>1492 Conquest of Paradise</em> (1992 by Ridley Scott)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Hernán Cortés &amp; Moctezuma II.</td>
<td>Watch the documentary film</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading for Discussion</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The seven American Legends: El Dorado, Cibo, Paititi and others...</td>
<td>Prepare this topic for discussion: What do you think the benefits obtained in America were spent on?</td>
<td>Bakewell, Peter. (1988) <em>Silver and Entrepreneurship in Seventeenth-Century Potosi</em>. New Mexico, New Mexico University. Pp. 22-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Spanish State in America in the seventeenth century. Colonial Cities and Political Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Spanish State in America in the seventeenth century. Colonial Economies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Catholic Church in Colonial Latin América</td>
<td>Watch the film <em>The Mission</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>The birth of a new society. The castes.</td>
<td>Prepare this topic for discussion: Does the color of the skin always determine the social status in the colony?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>1808 and the end of the Empire:</td>
<td>Read: Viscardo y Guzmán,</td>
<td>Read: Berner, Brad K. &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 20</td>
<td>The disaster of 1898: the loss of Cuba and Philippines. The Spanish-American War</td>
<td>Watch the documentary film <em>The Spanish American War</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 22</td>
<td>The Hispanic Society of América: Cultural admiration</td>
<td>Watch the documentary film <em>The Hispanic Society of América</em> Final paper due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 23</td>
<td>Review and preparation for final exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**
- Museo de América
- Casa de América
- Museo Antropologico

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**REQUIRED FILMS (to be watched outside of class time; all films available at the IES Abroad Madrid Center):**
- *El Cid* (1961) by Anthony Mann
REQUIRED DOCUMENTARY FILMS:
- Bartolomé de Las Casas
- The Conquest
- The Fall of Granada 1492
- The Great Spanish Conquistadors
- The Spanish American War
- The Hispanic Society of América

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
- Fee, Christopher & Webb, Jeffrey B. (2016) American Myths. Santa Bárbara, ABC-CLIO.

RECOMMENDED FILMS:
- La Corona partida (2016) by Jordi Frades

RECOMMENDED MUSEUMS:
Museo Nacional de Antropología: Located in Alfonso XII Street, 68. This museum showcases some key moments through preserved objects. Visiting the collection devoted to America is interesting to this subject.