DESCRIPTION: Why are Spaniards exhuming mass graves of the Civil War? How can the country tolerate an unemployment rate of 16 percent? Why does a country with a historic reputation for *machismo* boast such progressive laws on gender and gay marriages? How come political corruption remains so prevalent? Will Spaniards change the constitution in order to placate the increasing demands of separatists in Catalonia and the Basque Country?

Spain remains a country filled with paradoxes. During the Great Recession (2008-2013), it exhibited spiraling rates of unemployment, multiple bank failures, and a cascade of evictions. Yet, unlike other Southern European countries, it maintained political stability, implemented the directives of the European Union, and emerged from the crisis with its central institutions in tact. Recently, however, things have changed. New "citizens parties" from the right and left have challenged the hegemony of a two-party system, corruption scandals have caused many to lose faith in government, and a secessionist movement in Catalonia has grown so strong that it is unclear whether it can be satisfied without a large scale reform of the constitution. At the present time, the central institutions of the Spanish state are being thrown into question. All of this makes for an interesting time to study politics and recent history.

This course examines political and social issues relevant to Spaniards today. It begins by discussing recent history in order to contextualize the major themes of the past few decades. It then moves to those subjects that emerged out of the transition to democracy – regionalism, terrorism, political amnesties – and still account for many of the peculiarities of the political system. The course then analyzes “Spain’s Second Transition” around the turn of the twenty-first century when two parties alternated in power and confronted a new gamut of issues concerning immigration, Islamic fundamentalism, foreign policy, gender and family relations, historical memory, political corruption, and ultimately an economic crisis. The last third of the class addresses the Catalan independence movement, new political parties, and the crisis of political disaffection that Spaniards are undergoing today. The course is multi-disciplinary, consisting of a mixture of readings from political science, history, and cultural studies. Each session will consist of a lecture and a class discussion.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Class discussion: The majority of each class will consist of discussions of key themes. Students will be provided with the texts to read for each class on Moodle, together with a list of reading questions designed to focus their attention on key points and concepts in the texts. These will form the basis of the class discussions.

Course-related trips: There will be one in course-related trip to the Institutions of Catalan Government through the centuries.

Lectures: The professor will supplement class discussions with lectures to help the students interpret the material provided in the class readings, to tie the readings together, and provide summaries of theoretical approaches to the subject.

Guest Speaker: The course will feature a guest speaker who will discuss issues regarding Catalan separatism in Barcelona today.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Mid-term exam (30%): This will use different formats to assess students’ progress towards the learning outcomes in the first half of the course. The question formats will include essay questions, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and justified True/False questions.

- Final Paper (20%): This consists of an original research project, 7 to 10 pages long, on a topic to be discussed and agreed upon with the professor and later presented to the class for discussion. The students will be presented with a list of 5 possible topics of research.

- Presentation of Final Paper (5%): During the last days of class, students will be required to present their research paper, which will be evaluated independently of the paper itself.
• Class participation (15%). Students will be expected to come to class prepared, and to participate actively in class.
• Final exam (30%). Like the midterm exam, this will use different formats to assess students’ progress towards the learning outcomes.

Rubrics for all these pieces of assessment available on the Moodle page.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
• engage directly in debates concerning events in Spain currently covered in the news.
• articulate the historical context of regional tensions in Spain today.
• analyze the tremendous changes that have taken place within Spanish society and culture over the past three decades.
• demonstrate knowledge of the major issues relevant to Spaniards and Europeans today, including immigration, unemployment, the economic crisis, gender relations, and the European Union.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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<td>Radcliff, Pamela B. &quot;From Democratic Transition to Consolidation and Crispación, 1970s to the Present&quot;, in <em>The History of Modern Spain</em>, 113-132.</td>
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<td>Hughes, Neil. “Young People took to the Streets and All of Sudden All of the Political Parties got Old: The 15-M Movement in Spain.” Social Movement Studies 10(4) 2011: 407-413.</td>
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Final Exam
REQUIRED READINGS:


RECOMMENDED READINGS:

• LABANYI, Jo. “Memory and Modernity in Democratic Spain: The Difficulty of Coming to Terms with the Spanish Civil War”, *Poetics Today*, v. 28 (Spring 2007): pp. 89-116.
• MAGONE, José M. *Contemporary Spanish Politics*, 2d. ed. (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2009).