CM 327 LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNICATION: THE SPANISH PERSPECTIVE
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION:
This course has been designed to provide students with key elements to understand Spain today, the different ways Spaniards live and how their identity is defined. Students are able to explore the relationship between culture, communication and language in a multilingual and multicultural society. They study different language functions and learn to use communication as a tool for greater cultural understanding in a foreign country. The course also analyses the concept of culture and cultural identity, and it discusses perceptions of time, society, sports, family, religion and values in Spain. Spanish news reports will be compared to reports from Spanish and European media groups to compare different perspectives on Spanish current affairs. Some basic communication theory is presented, and sites of cultural interest are visited.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- LECTURES: Presentation of topics from Catalan history, political parties and subjects related to Catalan identity today combined with analysis of signs and vocabulary from different fields that characterize Catalan society today.
- COURSE-RELATED TRIPS: Visit locations in Barcelona and museums to complete observations of basic behaviour patterns discussed or analyzed in class. We will visit museums and parts of the city of Barcelona under the frame of communicational settings for our class topics.
- READER: General Language and Communication topics will be introduced through readings as basic tools to evaluate and classify the Spanish Case Studies used in class.
- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Personal research carried out on topics related to Language, Food, Family and Sports. Students will present orally a weekly News Review Report on Spanish news.
- DEBATES: Cross-cultural debates based on topics from readings and news from newspapers during the semester.
- CLASS DISCUSSIONS: Open and tolerant acceptance of students’ opinions and experiences to define and evaluate topics in a progressive learning way.
- CASE STUDIES: Work on concrete cultural, political or social events to complete the theory concepts given in class about Language and Communication in Spain.
- FILM AND VISUAL VIEWINGS: Relevant documentaries and a Photo Database will be presented as base of discussion related to communication from the Spanish Perspective.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENTS (10%): This includes attendance, participation in class discussions, the forwarding of pertinent questions, familiarity with the reader texts to guarantee that students are familiar with the topics covered in class and their involvement in class activities and assignments. Be prepared when coming to class with books/articles and personal notes on the readings.
- ORAL PRESENTATION (20%): A student group must give the rest of the class a 20-minute presentation on one of the four main issues illustrating the class topics assigned by the instructor: Minorities, Food, Sports and Family.
- FINAL PAPER (20%): (10 pages long; Time New Roman 12; 1.5 lines) will be written by each student on a topic chosen by the student related to one of the four key topics presented in class as case studies during the course. Students should present a Paper Research outline by mid-term to be confirmed by the professor. The paper will be submitted in hard copy and sent by email to the professor the last week of the semester before the final exam.
• MIDTERM EXAM (25%): 3 OR 4 short essay questions and 2 long essay questions based on course content.
• Final Exam (25%): Take-home exam. 3 OR 4 short questions and 2 long essay questions based on course content.

Students’ participation in class is essential and it will be assessed. Students are expected to have an active role in the class, participating in class discussions and fulfilling the required work for each session (readings and other possible materials such as films and documentaries as stated) following everyday media cases in Spanish news. Students are also required to give an oral presentation in a group on one of the topics of the course, under the professor’s guidance and instructions. One essay (10 pages long; Time New Roman 12; 1.5 lines) will be written by each student on a topic chosen by the student related to one of the four key topics presented in Class as case studies during the course. The essay will be submitted in hard copy and sent by email to the professor.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
• Identify cultural processes in Spain from a historical perspective;
• Distinguish differences between societies depending on their cultural practices, communication dynamics and traditions;
• Recognize cultural differences within Spain and be understanding and tolerant towards them;
• Recognize cultural similarities in globalized cultures;
• Express themselves with criterion about topics tackled in the course verbally and in written form;
• Compare different cultural contexts through media in Spain;
• Apply basic anthropological concepts to their own culture;
• Analyze different minority/regional languages and nationalities within Spain.

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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<th>Content</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the course. Topics for oral presentations and essays.</td>
<td>• Kelly, Dorothy (2000): “Selling Spanish “otherness” since the 1960s”. In Barry Jordan and Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas (eds.) London. (pp 29-37).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Communication and culture. What do these concepts mean?</td>
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<th>The linguistic map of Spain. Co-existing with Spanish: monolingualism and bilingualism in Spain. The case of Catalonia.</th>
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<th>Session 5</th>
<th>The linguistic map of Spain. Co-existing with Spanish: Linguistic demography (ii). The cases of the Basque Country and Galicia.</th>
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<th>Session 6</th>
<th>The linguistic map of Spain. Co-existing with Spanish: Linguistic demography (ii). The case of Galicia.</th>
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<td>• Hermida, Carme (2001); “The Galician Speech Community”.</td>
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<th>Session 7</th>
<th>Multiculturalism and Interculturality in Spain.</th>
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<td>• Corkill, David (2000). “Race, immigration and multiculturalism in Spain”. In Barry Jordan and Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas (eds.), <em>Contemporary</em></td>
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<td>Session 13</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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| Session 15 | Identity and Sports.  
**Class presentation 3**  
Final Discussion |
| --- | --- |
| • Whal, Grant (2012); “Inside Barcelona: Fierce rivalry with Real Madrid unlike any in U.S.”.  
| Session 16 | Tradition and modernity: Spanish families today.  
Evolution and types.  
Film Viewing (previous to the session):  
Pedro Almodóvar’s, “Qué he hecho yo para merecer esto?” |
| --- | --- |
| Session 17 | Youth in Spain. Is there a youth problem?  
**Class presentation 4** |
| --- | --- |
| Session 18 | Cultural contact, encounters and communication.  
Spain and The Americas. |
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| Session 19 | Cultural contact, encounters and communication.  
Spain and The Americas.  
**Course-related trip:** Visit to the Chocolate Museum of Barcelona. |
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<td>Session 20</td>
<td>Non-verbal communication and its cultural dimensions.</td>
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| • Andersen, Peter A., Michael L. Hecht, Gregory D. Hoobler and Maya Smallwood (2003). “Nonverbal Communication Across Cultures”. In William B. Gudykunst (ed.), *Cross-Cultural
### Session 21
**Gender in communication (i). Gendered images: the case of Spain**

- Antón, Elvira (2000). “Gendered images: constructions of masculinity and femininity in television advertising”. In Barry Jordan and Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas (eds.), *Contemporary Spanish Cultural Studies*. (pp 204-212)

### Session 22
**Gender in communication (ii). Gendered images: the case of Spain. Pictures Workshop: Gendered Images in the Public Space in Spain. (Class Discussion)**

**Essay to be submitted**

### Session 23
**Media in Spain (i): Censorship and Plurality.**


### Session 24
**Oral Presentation Papers**

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**Final Exam**

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Deacon, Philip (2000). “Regulation and The flexible media regime in Spain”: (pp. 149-158).

RECOMMENDED READINGS: