

Dr. W. Martínez

**HUMANITIES 310**  
**CULTURE OF SPAIN**

Cal Poly SLO

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Course Description:

An interdisciplinary examination of the different components that make up Spanish culture. The course examines the roots of Spanish from the earliest days through Roman, Visigothic, Islamic, Christian kingdoms, and follows a topical development of Spain's most important iconic symbols of hegemonic culture.

Required Texts:

The Arts in Spain. John Moffitt.

The Cambridge companion to Modern Spanish Culture, David T. Gies, ed.

The Soul of Spain, William Martinez, Ed.

Course Dynamics:

Students are expected to come prepared with assign readings to class, to actively participate in discussion, and to respect other's opinions as they do their own. Student input in this course is greatly valued.

Grading:

Grading will be on a straight percent scale as follows:

100-95: A	89-87: B+	79-77: C+	69-67: D+
	86-84: B	76-74: C	66-64: D
94-90: A-	83-80: B-	73-70: C-	63-60: D- 59-00: F

Borderline cases will be determined only by the amount of class participation.

Gradable work:

Your grade will be determined based on the following work to be completed during the course:

5 30-min. quizzes:	250 pts. (50 pts each)
1 Journal	100 pts.
Midterm Exam	150 pts
1 Final Term Paper	250 pts.
Final Exam	150 pts
Participation	100 pts.

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1000 pts Total

## Quizzes

Quizzes will cover the material discussed and the readings assignments up to that point. Quizzes are not cumulative. There will be no make-up quizzes.

## Journal

You will be required to keep a journal for the duration of the program. This should not be a personal journal ("Today I got up, ate breakfast took the bus to school, etc. etc, etc.) but more a reflection of your experiences in Valladolid with regards to the materials covered in class. You will be required to have a minimum of 20 for the 11 weeks we are in Valladolid. Each entry should be about one to one and a half pages, hand written and double-spaced. Journals will be collected four times during the quarter at random. You should bring your journal to class every day.

You may write on one of the following:

- a) Compare/contrast cultural traits that you personally experience between Spain and the U.S.
- b) Evaluate and/or discuss an assigned reading before it is discussed in class.
- c) Elaborate on your impressions on any cultural site visited during the experience (ex. A piece of art, a museum, a building, a city, etc.)
- d) Write about something you read in the local/national newspapers (El País, El Norte de Castilla, Vanguardia, Mundo, etc.)
- e) Interview a Spaniard (your family, a teacher, a friend with regards to one or more (maximum 5) of the topics given in the Interview Assignment Sheet.
- f) An elaboration or personal experience with cultural issues discussed in class. (but not class notes)

## Final Term paper

The final paper will be hand written, double spaced, on 8.5 by 11 paper. Its length will be a minimum of six (6) complete pages, and a maximum of ten (10) pages (I will not read beyond ten and your grade will be affected). Please make sure to include a bibliography, if you cite sources.

The topic can be any specific part of Spanish culture that interests you most. Please make sure that you do focus on Spain specifically, NOT on a comparison between Spain and the U.S. This type of paper will receive an automatic grade of "F"

You may also use the Interview Assignment Sheet to think of a topic, so long as you have not written on it as part of a journal entry. If you do use this material, you will need to cite your sources (whomever you interview)

The final paper will be due the last day of class at the beginning of the period. I will not accept any late papers, so plan to arrive early to turn in.

## Participation

You are expected to come prepared to class and to interact with all class discussions. Hence, you should complete your reading assignment prior to the beginning of that class. Please make sure you understand this distinction: You earn points for asking questions or responding to my questions when I ask them. You don't earn any points for just showing up to class. There is a maximum of 7 points earned per class meeting (4 points per class meeting when there's a quiz) If you miss class or don't participate, you lose your points. There are no make up points for participation.

## Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm exam will cover the first five weeks of class and the final exam will cover the last five weeks of class. The exams are not cumulative. You will have short answer questions and essay questions. You will always have a choice in answering both types of questions. All exams are closed notes and closed book.

## Extra Credit

You have plenty of opportunities to earn regular points, and you will be busy enough, without my burdening you with extra work, so there will not be any extra credit assigned for this class.

## Calendar of activities

### Week #1

The origins of Spain  
Roman Spain  
Visigothic Spain

### Week #2

Islamic Spain  
The surge of Christian Kingdoms  
Quiz #1

### Week #3

Renaissance Spain  
1492 Anno Miraculus

### Week #4

The importance of Christianity  
Early Modern Spain  
Quiz #2

### Week #5

Spain's Golden Age  
The Apex of Spanish life  
Midterm

### Week #6

19<sup>th</sup> Century Spain  
Romanticism

### Week #7

The Generation of 1898  
The Spanish American War  
Quiz #3

### Week #8

The Rise of Catalan Renaissance  
Modernistic Movements in Spain  
Term paper Due

### Week #9

The Franco Dictatorship  
Democracy Returns to Spain  
Quiz #4

### Week #10

Modern Spanish culture  
Conclusions and review  
Final Exam

## Interview Assignment Sheet

To better assist you in integrating into the Spanish culture, you may write in your journal on one of the following topics. Please be reminded that you do NOT have to write on all of them.

1. Gender roles in the Spanish family
2. The role that religion plays in Spanish culture today
3. Viewing sports on television
4. Meals and family life
5. The role of elder relatives in the family dynamics
6. How Spaniards view American students
7. What Spaniards think of American politics today?
8. What do Spaniards find most different about Americans and themselves?
9. What was life in Valladolid 10 years ago? 15 years ago? Earlier?
10. Spanish attitude towards immigration
11. What does it mean for a Spaniard to be “well educated”?
12. Greetings among friends
13. The concept of time for Spaniards
14. How important is the hometown for Spaniards?
15. Slang in Spain
16. What do Vallesoletanos think of the separatist movements in Spain?
17. What makes Spaniards proud of being Spaniards?
18. Differences in the legal system between Spain and the U.S.
19. Spanish Television—What does this say about cultural preferences?
20. Spanish attitudes towards music (young people and older generation)
21. Compare/contrast reading habits between Spaniards and Americans
22. What styles of clothing do Spaniards prefer? Why?
23. Shopping in Spain Compare/contrast with the U.S.
24. The pace of life in Valladolid v. the Pace of life in your home town
25. Spaniards and cell phones
26. The role of conversation (one-to-one) in Spanish life
27. What are the main industries in Valladolid? Why?
28. What is the nickname of the city and why is it called so?
29. Spaniards and religion today. Compare two generations.
30. Your favorite Spanish writer(s)? Why?