



## OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

### GO Barcelona—Summer 2021

INT 490-02

(Cross-listed: SPN 290, SPN 490)\*

SPANISH CULTURE:

AN EXPLORATION OF CIVILIZATION AND SOCIETY IN SPAIN

**Professor:** Mario Chandler, Ph. D  
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### **Course Overview**

This three-credit summer travel course will make use of our presence in Barcelona to explore up close and personal, the vibrant culture, civilization, and history of Spain. Over the centuries, a diversity of groups—Romans, Visigoths, Jews, Muslims, and Gypsies (to name a few)—entered the Iberian Peninsula and made vital contributions to Spanish culture that would ultimately shape the construction of identity and society in Spain. In addition, more recent extensive immigration from Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa (namely Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking African country), further enhances (and complicates) any effort to discuss and to define contemporary Spanish society.

### **Course Objectives**

The goal of this course is to provide students with a general exposure to and appreciation of the richly diverse culture of Spain. Through readings, lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, local visits/excursions, students:

- study the key historical communities upon which Spanish identity is constructed.
- explore how Christianity, Islam, and Judaism all make their mark on the culture of Spain.
- compare and contrast key moments in Spain's history with issues in contemporary Spanish society in order to understand how the past informs the present.
- explore how contemporary immigration from Africa and Latin America provides a new lens with which to view Spanish identity and society.

### **LeadAbroad Mission & Values**

LeadAbroad is committed to leveraging the international experience for a student's personal growth and development. Each course is specifically designed to challenge students, expose them to the local culture and help them become more globally minded citizens. During class and throughout the program, our expectation is that students will be gracious guests in the host country, which means

- Being polite to the locals
- Providing a kind greeting when entering a building with a guard or front desk attendant on duty
- Attempting to use the local language for requests, salutations and thanks
- Being patient with different customs and traditions

During the program we will also touch on these five core values of LeadAbroad

- *Breaking through boundaries* abroad and at home
- Creating *trusting relationships* with those from different cultures
- Identifying your *purpose and path* while abroad
- *Serving* others abroad and at home
- *Maximizing your potential* by taking what you learned back home

### **Classroom Ethos:**

- Respect yourself and one another in the classroom. The obvious aim of this course is to provide an opportunity for you to engage in some of the most stimulating and controversial questions and issues that exist within our every day increasing globalized world. A classroom environment that is conducive to such learning must be one in which each person is able to freely express his/her thoughts, to ask questions, to make mistakes, to disagree in a non-combative way, and to learn from and with one another. In short, use neither disrespectful speech nor any other form of disrespectful behavior towards one another.
- Cell phones and all other electronic devices (laptops, tablets, music devices, etc.) may NOT be used in the classroom unless specifically requested by the professor.
- Do not leave the room during class unless it is absolutely necessary. Leaving the room while class is in session is disruptive to your learning and to the learning of others.

### **Texts**

#### **Recommended, not required**

Phillips, William D. and Carla Rahn Phillips. *A Concise History of Spain*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

#### **\*(SPN Spanish-credit option applicable to the Spanish major and minor available for this course)**

Excerpts from key Spanish writings and writers such as *The Poem of the Cid* (anonymous), *The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes* (anonymous), *Don Quixote* (by Miguel de Cervantes), Federico García Lorca (poetry), Concha Buika (music and poetry) will be studied carefully to illustrate how Spanish culture and society are reflected in various “national narratives.” We say narratives in the plural because we will see that a multiplicity of voices, in fact, articulate what is Spain and who are Spaniards. In addition, the required text, *A Concise History of Spain*, will be used to facilitate a wide array of interdisciplinary discussions centered around the primary texts as well as around the broader conversation of Spanish civilization, society and culture. Film clips from a handful of Spanish movies will be used in the classroom to illustrate and prompt additional discussions about Spain past and present.

Additional readings will be available as handouts or on Moodle as needed.

### **Evaluation**

The evaluation for this course is based on two tests, two short papers (5 pages each in length), a final research project/presentation, and active class participation. The tests will assess the student’s understanding of key concepts explored in the readings (from *A Concise History of Spain*, henceforth referred to as HS for short) and discussions; the short papers will require students to write an analytical response to the readings; and the final paper/project will constitute an expository research project on a related topic of the student’s choice.

**Grade Rubric:**

Tests (2@15%)	30%
Short papers (2@ 15%)	30%
Final project	30%
Participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grading Scale**

A= Excellent (90-100)

B=Good (80-89)

C= Average (70-79)

D = Below Average (60-69)

F= < 59

**\*Spanish-credit option**

This course is available for Spanish credit, either SPN 290 or SPN 490, Special Topics and Advanced Special Topics designations respectively for Spanish. The following pre-requisites are required for students seeking Spanish credit for INT 490-01--"Spanish Culture": for SPN 290—completion of Spanish 301 (Advanced Spanish or equivalent); for SPN 490—completion of Spanish 302 (Introduction to Hispanic Literature or equivalent). In order to receive SPN 290 or SPN 490 credit for this course, students are required to complete all written assignment in Spanish AND engage daily in class break-out sessions with the professor conducted in Spanish during class meetings. The required oral presentation must also be delivered in Spanish.

**Grading Policies**

Make-up exams will not be given, except in the case of a documented illness. Late submission of assignments and the paper will be penalized. If you have extenuating personal or medical circumstances, contact me as soon as possible via e-mail or phone. You will be required to submit valid documentation the day you return to class.

**Course Policies****Class Attendance:**

LeadAbroad is committed to the academic integrity of our programs. All students participating in a for credit program (LEAD and GO) will be subject to academic and programmatic consequences for missing class. Excused absences are approved only if the student has

- a doctor's note that includes the diagnosis and confirmation that the student needed to be seen immediately or
- a note from the program staff verifying a medical or personal emergency with the student

Unexcused absences will impact a student's final grade in the course. Refer to your course syllabi for specifics regarding how absences will impact your participation and/or final grade.

Academically, if a student misses class there will be a loss in participation points with each absence as well as consequences to the overall grade. For a traditional class (2 hours/4 days a week) -

- 2<sup>nd</sup> absence 2.5% deduction from overall grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup> absence additional 2.5% deduction from overall grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> absence additional 5% deduction from overall grade
- 5<sup>th</sup> absence student fails the course

Personal travel is not an excused absence. Students should review their course syllabi and reach out to LeadAbroad to confirm their class schedule before booking any personal travel.

Cell phones and other communication devices should be turned off or set to vibrate and not be used during class. Texting and surfing the web are not acceptable during class. **The use of laptops is allowed only when directed by the professor for specific class-related tasks.** Personal conversations are disruptive to both your classmates and to the instructor; any observations or insights you have are always welcome to share with the entire class.

### **Moodle and Email**

Students should familiarize themselves with Moodle and check the course page regularly since it will be used extensively to post homework assignments, supplementary readings and course updates. Each student should maintain an active, functioning e-mail account that is capable of receiving group e-mails. Your OU email account will be used to communicate important information to you about the course and your assignments.

### **Disability Statement**

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability or disability related issue and feel that you may need a reasonable accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of the course that are listed in this syllabus, you are encouraged to contact Disability Services in the Academic Success Center at 404.364.8869 or [accessability@oglethorpe.edu](mailto:accessability@oglethorpe.edu)

### **Withdrawals and incompletes**

The standard university policies on withdrawals as outlined in the most current edition of the Bulletin, apply to this course. Incompletes will only be given if a student is unable to complete the work for the course for reasons of health, family emergencies or similar unavoidable circumstances.

### **Honor Code**

Persons who come to Oglethorpe University for work and study join a community that is committed to high standards of academic honesty. The honor code contains the responsibilities we accept by becoming members of the community and the procedures we will follow should our commitment to honesty be questioned. All work produced for this class will be governed by the honor code.

Our honor code is an academic one. The code proscribes cheating in general terms and also in any of its several specialized sub-forms (including but not limited to plagiarism, lying, stealing and interacting fraudulently or disingenuously with the honor council). The Code defines cheating as “the umbrella under which all academic malfeasance falls. Cheating is any willful activity involving the use of deceit or fraud in order to attempt to secure an unfair academic advantage for oneself or others or to attempt to cause an unfair academic disadvantage to others. Cheating deprives persons of the opportunity for a fair and reasonable assessment of their own work and/or a fair comparative assessment between and among the work produced by members of a group. More broadly, cheating undermines our community’s confidence in the honorable state to which we aspire.”

Students pledge that they have completed assignments honestly by attaching the following statement to each piece of work submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a course taken for academic credit:

"I pledge that I have acted honorably." \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

### **Class Schedule**

This is tentative. Changes may be necessary as the term progresses.

#### **Week 1**

**July 7** Wednesday GO: Barcelona 2021 Program Orientation

**July 8** Thursday **Course Introduction** (Map of Iberia and Spanish autonomies)  
**Lecture/Discussion:** Iberian Visitors: Romans, Visigoths, Moors

**July 9** Friday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Chs 1 & 2: The Land/Early Inhabitants & Ancient Legacies  
**Short Paper 1 due**

#### **Week 2**

**July 12** Monday **Analysis/Discussion:** Don Quixote Arrives in Barcelona (excerpt)  
**Bus tour to Montjuic and Tibidabo**

**July 13** Tuesday **Test 1**

**July 14** Wednesday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Ch. 3: Diversity in Medieval Spain

**July 15** Thursday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Ch. 3: Diversity in Medieval Spain

#### **Week 3**

**July 19** Monday **In-Class Film Viewing:** *L'Auberge Espagnole* (2002)

**July 20** Tuesday **Analysis/Discussion:** Rui Díaz de Vivar—Excerpts from *The Poem of the Cid*

**July 21** Wednesday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Ch. 4: The Rise of Spain

**July 22** Thursday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Ch. 4: The Rise of Spain  
**Short Paper 2 due**

#### **Week 4**

**July 26** Monday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Ch. 7: Republic, War, Dictatorship

**July 27** Tuesday **Reading/Discussion:** HS Ch. 8: New Spain and New Spaniards

**July 28** Wednesday **Test 2**

**July 29** Thursday **Visit El Raval (Symbol of Spanish multiculturalism)**

#### **Week 5**

**Aug 2** Monday **In-Class Film Viewing:** *Biutiful* (2010)

**Aug 3** Tuesday **Guest Lecturer:** "The Immigrant Experience in Spain"

<b><i>Aug 4</i></b> Wednesday	<b>Final Project Workshop</b>
<b><i>Aug 5</i></b> Thursday	<b><u>Final Projects Presented</u></b>
<b><i>Aug 6</i></b> Friday	<b>Last Day of Class Course Conclusions and Summaries</b>