

SPAN3031 – Contemporary Spain: Cultural and Societal Changes

Category: Elective Course

Year: Third or fourth year of study

Medium of instruction: Spanish

Semester: Offered in the second semester

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to offer a glimpse of the cultural and societal changes in contemporary Spain. Through a series of lectures, students will learn about Spain in the 20th and 21st centuries, the changes undergone through the political transition from a dictatorship, which stemmed from a bloody and divisive Civil War, to a democracy, and the current challenges faced by the country such as political upheavals, national identity or the economy. The course will cover a variety of topics related to history, politics, economy, society, traditions and customs among others.

1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to read and write texts in Spanish about topics related to Spanish culture at an upper intermediate level.
- Critically analyse and discuss issues related to contemporary Spain and relate them to their own culture.
- Demonstrate intercultural awareness and appreciate the diversity of cultures and customs within Spain.

1.2 PRE-REQUISITES

Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN3031, must have completed SPAN3001 – Spanish III.1. Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN3031 without having previously completed SPAN3001, should contact the Programme Director, Mrs. Rocío Blasco (roblasco@hku.hk).

1.3 ASSESSMENT

This course is graded on the basis of continuous assessment and is as follows:

- Two written tests about course contents.
- Short quizzes.
- One oral presentation about a topic related to Spanish culture
- Moodle assignments
- One writing assignment

Attendance and active participation in class will be taken into account for final grading.

2. COURSE CONTENTS

The course has 2 contact hours per week. Attendance is expected to all classes and non-attendance may affect students' final grade.

There is no textbook for this course, all materials will be provided by the teacher in the classroom or via the Moodle platform. The course has an important component of work outside the classroom which serves as either preparation for the next class or reflection about a topic previously seen in class. Work may consist of reading texts and answering questions related to them, posting an opinion on a Moodle forum, watching a film and/or documentary and completing some activities related to it, writing texts, etc.

The following table shows a breakdown of the topics covered in the course:

COURSE TOPICS	
1	Introducción del curso: ¿Qué sabemos de España?
2	Un paseo por la historia de España; La Guerra Civil Española
3	Política y Economía de España; De la dictadura a la democracia
4	Identidad Nacional en España: Un país, muchas identidades
5	España en el mundo
6	La sociedad española: La familia; el rol de la mujer
7	La sociedad española: Los jóvenes y sus retos en el siglo XXI
8	La sociedad española: Trabajo, inmigración y emigración
9	La gastronomía de España: un país lleno de sabor.
10	Fiestas y Celebraciones españolas: Fiestas populares y actividades de ocio