

**Span 345, Spanish Culture and
Civilization**

Tues., Thurs. 1-2:50
location: MC 213
class no. 5528
Fall 2008

Professor Stephen Gingerich

Office: Rhodes Tower 1628
Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 3-5, by appt.
Phone: 216-687-4677
email: s.gingerich@csuohio.edu

Objectives: Students will gain a familiarity with contemporary Spain and the history of the Iberian peninsula as its inhabitants developed culturally and politically. By the end of the semester, students should be able to identify a large variety of people, events, and artifacts (archeological, artistic, and textual) that have been important for Spaniards. They should also have an appreciation of Spain's demographic and geographic diversity and for the country's historical role within Europe and the world.

In its interdisciplinary and historical dimensions, this course requires **critical thinking and study skills** in order to remember a good number of names of people, places, events, art works, etc. Students must develop, if they have not already, these skills. In addition to acquiring information about Spain, students will be expected to be able to perform the analytic task of relating specific cultural artifacts to their historical and cultural context. Doing so will require skills central to a liberal education: **reasoned discussion, both oral and written, and independent research.**

For the most part, students will be demonstrating their intellectual abilities in Spanish. Another goal of this course is to improve students' language skills; students at the 300 level should be able to work at an advanced level on the ACTFL scale. A thorough description of the characteristics of **advanced proficiency** can be found in the Department of Modern Languages' *Handbook for Students*. They include:

- **Grammar:** Students should be able to use most tenses, moods, and grammatical features, with some limitations.
- **Oral:** students should be able to use discuss familiar and unfamiliar topics within the context of everyday activities and cultural experiences. Their speech should include some complex structures and more than one tense.
- **Writing:** students should be able to write a short, two page composition on a familiar topic and work towards a longer composition by the end of the semester. Style may not be authentic, but shows basic control of vocabulary and language details, using past, present, and future tenses.
- **Aural:** student should be able to follow conversations and presentations by other students, as well as short lectures by the professor.
- **Reading:** student should be able to read new materials, using a dictionary, with little difficulty.
- **Culture:** students should already possess significant knowledge about Hispanic cultures in the U.S. and abroad, and should be ready to increase that knowledge.

Students who already have advanced Spanish skills or higher will be expected to work

on expanding their vocabulary, range of expression, and their familiarity with the standards of written Spanish as they learn to talk about the subtleties of historical and cultural topics.

Required Text (available in the University Bookstore):

Pereira-Muro, Carmen, *Culturas de España*. Boston; New York; Houghton Mifflin, 2003

Web component: There will be a Blackboard site for this course, including grades, online versions of policies and syllabus, powerpoint files, and class handouts. This will be your resource in the event that you miss class or have misplaced course materials.

Most importantly, the Blackboard page allows me to adjust homework to suit the progress of the class. You should refer to it in order to obtain a detailed description of the following class's assignment.

You log on to your Blackboard account using your CSU Campusnet i.d. and password. The links for any courses you are enrolled in should automatically appear. If you have any problem finding this course, contact the instructor immediately. The blackboard access page is:

<https://elearning.csuohio.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

The publisher of *Culturas de España* has a useful website, expanding some of the topics in the book. There is a link on the Blackboard page, and its web address is: <http://college.hmco.com/languages/spanish/pereira/culturas/1e/students/index.html>

Grading: Following is the **breakdown** of elements adding up to the course grade.

homework, quizzes	20%
participation	10%
First project	10%
Second project	20%
Midterm exam	20%
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
total:	100%

The final grade is based on the university's standard percentage scale: 100-94% A; 93-90% A-; 89-87% B+; 86-83% B; 82-80% B-; 79-77 C+; 76-70% C; 69-60% D; below 59 F

Policies

I. Attendance policy:

- Attending class is crucial to your successful completion of the goals of the class and is therefore **mandatory**. Missing more than **two classes** will cause your final grade to be lowered.
- **Tardiness** is also inappropriate. Three tardies will count as an absence.
- Medical excuses are the only way to get an excused absence. For any other absence (funerals, jury duty, jail sentences, etc.) you should check with me beforehand to see if they will be excused.
- No absence, excused or not, absolves anyone of responsibility for the following class's work (whether, homework, quiz, or exam). You can always check the course web site for assignments and handouts.

II. Your **participation grade** counts for 10% of your final grade. For your benefit, I will give you a participation grade, up to 25 points, approximately every four weeks. Here is what I look for:

- 23-25 Student is always alert and prepared for class; he or she shows this by frequently volunteering to speak, by quickly responding to questions that are asked, by participating in group work with enthusiasm, speaking exclusively in Spanish.
- 19-22 Student is usually alert and prepared for class, as described above. This student may not volunteer often, but seems to be ready to give answers when called on. Or this student may volunteer often but not show that he or she is familiar with the material assigned for that day.
- 15-18 Student is usually alert and prepared for class, as described above. Usually can supply answers when called upon, but may require coaching.
- 0-14 Often inattentive. Rarely is able to give correct answers to simple questions in class or to participate productively in group work. Rarely volunteers to speak.

III. **Homework assignments** have been worked out with the assumption that students can be expected to do two hours of work outside of class for every hour spent in class. Of course, different individuals may need more or less time. If you find yourself with extra time or under undue stress to finish assignments in a reasonable amount of time, do consult with me.

Most homework assignments will be graded from 1-10 using the following guidelines:

- 10 points: Assignment complete, neat; carefully and thoroughly done
- 9 points: Complete, neat; some evidence of rushing or not thinking ideas through completely (very short answers, incomplete thoughts, informal or careless expression in Spanish, etc.)
- 8 points: Contains some good work, but shows some lack of care or thoroughness
- 7 and below From merely adequate answers to incomplete, sloppy work

You should prepare to discuss the ideas and details of the readings. I recommend taking notes that you can review before class and keeping a **vocabulary notebook**, if you do not already do so, to help you with the ongoing task of increasing your active and passive vocabulary.

You will be asked to hand in homework assignments, so you should always do them neatly and legibly. **Late assignments** will not be accepted.

IV. **Written projects** must:

- be typewritten or printed out letter quality in a standard, non-cursive font
- have a clear heading at the top of the first page, including your name, the date, and a title for your essay
- not include paper or plastic cover pages

- be turned in on time. If previous arrangements have not been made, **late essays** will receive an automatic one letter grade reduction.
- V. Students are expected to be familiar with some manner of **citing sources** from which he or she has culled information. If you have any doubts about how to cite sources, please consult the Modern Languages Handbook for Students and/or confer with me. If you receive any other sort of **outside help** from friends or tutors, you should inform me with a note at the end of the assignment, including the person's name, e-mail or phone number, and a brief description of the help received.
- Using the words, ideas, or research of another person without acknowledging them constitutes **plagiarism** and is grounds for an automatic "zero" on the assignment.
- VI. Any student who observes **religious holidays** not taken into account in the university calendar should speak with me about making the necessary arrangements.
- VII. **Academic honesty** is essential to maintain the integrity of the University as an institution and to foster an environment conducive to the pursuit of knowledge. The Cleveland State University Academic Community values honesty and integrity and holds its members to high standards of ethical conduct. Academic dishonesty is therefore unacceptable, and students must be prepared to accept the appropriate sanctions for any dishonest academic behavior as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. This code can be found in the Student Handbook published by the Department of Student Life, available on-line at: <http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/conduct/StudentCodeofConduct2004.pdf>
- VIII. The staff of Office of Services for Persons with Disabilities (University Center, Rm. 304; tel. 216.687.2015) coordinates accommodations and services for CSU courses. If you have a **disability** for which you may request accommodation in your classes and have not contacted them, please do as soon as possible.
- IX. **Other policies:**
- A. We will generally take a short break after the first 50 minutes of class.
 - B. Anyone who wishes to leave the classroom to go to the bathroom or to get a drink is requested to excuse themselves. Leaving without permission will count as a tardy.
 - C. It is O.K. to bring a drink to class, but no food will be allowed. Gum chewing is also not permitted during class.

VIII. Course Calendar:

Note: This calendar provides an overview of the subject matter covered and the dates of major assignments. A day-by-day calendar is available on the Blackboard page.

Week 1 (Aug. 26 & 28): Introduction to the course; introductory chapter of *Culturas* (geography and facts about Spain); contemporary Spain: traditions and current events

Week 2 (Sept. 2 & 4): Spanish economy, society, politics; Spain and Europe; geography quiz; historical overview and preview of history lessons; **assignment for first (midterm) project**

Week 3 (Sept. 9 & 11): chapter 1 of *Culturas* (early Iberian inhabitants to Visigoths); readings: Strabo; ch. 1 quiz

Week 4 (16 & 18): chapter 2 of *Culturas* (medieval Hispania); readings: Alfonso X, El Cid

Week 5 (Sept. 23 & 25): readings on Camino de Santiago, religious (in)tolerance, Christian nostalgia for Moors (Granada); ch. 2 quiz

Week 6 (Sept. 30 & Oct. 2): chapter 3 of *Culturas* (the beginning of the Spanish empire in Europe and the Americas); readings on cultural plurality, the Jews, *moriscos*; quiz

Week 7 (Oct. 7 & 9): first project presentations, or hand in written projects; chapter 4 of *Culturas* (the height of the Spanish empire)

Week 8 (Oct. 14 & 16): readings on the 17th century: Garcilaso, Madrid; cultural conflicts in the Americas; review; **midterm exam**

Week 9 (Oct. 21 & 23): chapter 5 of *Culturas* (the Golden Age); readings: Lope de Vega, Cervantes; quiz

Week 10 (Oct. 28 & 30): assign final project; chapter 6 of *Culturas* (decadence of Spain); readings on reform projects; Goya; *Don Juan Tenorio*; review and quiz

Week 11 (Nov. 4 & 6): chapter 7 of *Culturas* (the upheavals of the 19th century); reading on Goya, independence of the colonies;

Week 12 (Nov. 13; no class on Nov. 11): discussion of final project; readings: Romanticism, polarization of Spanish society, 1898; quiz

Week 13 (Nov. 18 & 20): chapter 8 of *Culturas* (20th century); art and culture in the 20th century

Week 14 (Nov. 25; no class on Nov. 27): readings on Spanish Civil War, status of women, tourism; quiz

Week 15 (Dec. 2 & 4): hand in **final projects**; cinema and popular music; review for final.

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 9, 1-3