

GVT 367 - POLITICS OF SPAIN (4 credits)

Course Description

“Spain is a miracle”, claims the political scientist A. Przeworski. Why is this so? This course is designed to provide students with a basic grounding of the political history and political developments of contemporary Spain. Those developments are presented to the students in their socio-economic context as well as in a comparative style, placing special emphasis in the reasons that explain the modelic Spanish peaceful transition from a dictatorship to a democracy. There are, however, some sociopolitical aspects that are pending in the consolidation of Spanish democracy. Important among them is the unfinished territorial model, a rather unique—and problematic—hybrid between centralism and federalism. Basque and Catalan nationalisms are examined in order to resolve part of this puzzle.

Course Format

It is a Madrid Campus lecture course. Each session will be presented by the instructor in class. Students will participate in the discussions that will follow the professor’s explanation of each topic, which implies preparing the program for the discussion as will be explained in class. Specific cases on current Spanish issues will illustrate the topic. Students must be updated by reading newspapers and journals. Students must also write a paper (6 to 8 pages, usual stylistic standards) on a particular aspect of Spanish politics covered in the class. A tentative version of the paper will be presented in class before the paper is handed in, so comments and suggestions are incorporated. Creative thinking will be encouraged and valued.

Course Objectives

The goal is to help students to develop a deeper insight of all the aspects involved in Spanish politics, so they can develop their own conclusions on a solid base.

Course Evaluation-Grade Breakup

Midterm exam: 30 %

Final exam: 35%

Paper: 25%

Teacher’s evaluation of the student’s participation in class discussions: 10%

Homework and Participation

The Madrid Campus requires regular attendance. Following the reading assigned for each session will be required. Participation is key and it is a 10% of your grade.

Textbooks / Required Materials

The text book for the class is:

Encarnación, Omar (2008), *Spanish Politics: Democracy after Dictatorship*, Cambridge: Polity.

Recommended readings

Pérez-Díaz, V. M. (1993), *The Return of Civil Society in Spain. The Emergence of Democratic Spain*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press

Linz, J.J. (1996), *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*, Baltimore: John Hopkins Univ. Press.

Martínez-Tapia, O. (2008), *Territorial Dimension as Political Strategy: Center-Periphery in Spain 1977-2008*, Center for the Study of Democracy (UCIrvine) (free download at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/csd/08-09>).

Class slides will be available in the *public drive* of the University computers before the midterm and final.

Course Outline:

Week 1:

Introduction to the course. Rules of the game.

Placing issues in context. Chronological review of 20th Century's most important political events.

Week 2:

The 20th Century. The Second Republic.

Readings: TBA

Week 3: Francoism.

Readings: Ch. 2 in Encarnacion

Week 4:

The Institutional Set Up: 1978 Constitution and beyond

Reading: Ch. 1 & 3 in Encarnacion

Week 5: The Party System: from Polarised Pluralism to Moderate Pluralism

Reading: Ch. 4 in Encarnación

Week 6: The Party System Persistence and Change. Midterm Review

Reading: Ch. 4 in encarnación (Cont.)

Week 7: **Midterm Exam**

Documentary on the Spanish Transition

Week 8: Elections and Electoral System I

Reading: Handout by Professor

Week 9: **Spring Break**

Week 10: Elections and the Electoral System II

Reading: Handout by Professor

Week 11: The Territorial Model I: Unfinished Puzzle

Readings: Ch. 6 in Encarnacion

Week 12: The Territorial Model II: Non-State-Wide Parties

Readings: Martínez-Tapia 2008

Week 13: Civil Society: from Dictatorship to Democracy

Reading: Ch. 5 in Encarnacion

Week 14: The Return of Civil Society

Reading: Pérez Díaz

Week 15: April 19th: FILM

Week 16, April 25th & 27th: Wrap up and final review

Classroom Philosophy

- Respect for all religions, ideologies, ethnic groups and genders is most expected. Be open, respectful and engaged.
- You are required to attend each class session prepared to participate and think critically during lecture and discussion sessions. I will value creativity and criticism.
- The Madrid Campus requires regular attendance. Following the reading assigned for each session will be required. Two unjustified absences will be allowed. Further **unjustified absences will lower the grade** half a point for each subsequent absence. Justified absences require relevant documentation. Attendance is a must. 15% of your final grade will be given on your participation in class.
- All required assignments are to be submitted on time. Essay's that are handed in late will be marked down.
- Anyone who has problems to attend class or deliver work on time should speak to the Professor beforehand. We all have problems, but talk to me!
- Punctuality is needed. Tardiness is at best a rude disruption to your fellow classmates who are punctual.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

See Suffolk's online Student Policy and Procedure Handbook statement:

<http://www.suffolk.edu/student-services/pol-procedure/ac-reg.html>