

HST 357 - HISTORY OF SPAIN I (Pre-history to 1700) (4 credits)

Course Description

This is a general survey course, covering the most transcendental social, cultural, economic and political developments in the history of Spain, from the Neolithic to the Early Modern Period. The broad history of the nation and its peoples will be examined, placing emphasis on three central themes: diversity within the Iberian Peninsula, the region's social and geo-political structures, and the transformation of the Old Order of the ancient kingdoms into a modern, nation-state. The course material will be covered in a series of thematic blocks: the Pre-historical period, Roman Hispania, the Medieval Kingdoms, Islamic Civilization, the Christian Reconquest, the Catholic Monarchy, Imperial Spain under the Habsburgs, and the Crisis of the Spanish Empire in the 17th century.

Course Objectives

The principal objective of this course is to provide students with the basic knowledge and interpretative tools for the *understanding* and *critical analysis* of the social, cultural, political and economic developments that led to the formation and evolution of the societies that have inhabited the Iberian Peninsula. The student will learn to appreciate and comprehend the social and cultural processes – conquest, migration, adaptation, etc. – that resulted in the formation of the peoples of the Iberian Peninsula; the relationships between the numerous cultures and kingdoms that have shared this geographical space; and the complex forces that converged, in the late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age, allowing the formation of the Spanish Empire. Students will learn and apply historical research methods and will develop their written and oral communication skills.

In order to comply with these objectives, the following domains and skills will be developed during the course:

- (i) narration
- (ii) chronological reasoning
- (iii) causation
- (iv) comparison/contextualization
- (v) interpretation
- (vi) empathy

Course Format and Requirements

Class format: Class sessions will include a combination of lectures, open discussion, student presentations and optional field trips.

Required Readings: Students are required to complete the compulsory readings for each session *prior* to the date provided in the outline, and must be prepared to discuss the subject matter in class with the professor and fellow students.

Term papers: Students shall prepare one book review and one term paper. During the first half of the term, students will have performed extensive research on a topic which he/she shall select in consultation with the professor, and shall submit a 5-page (1000-1250 words) book review and

critique of one of the principal printed sources being utilized in his/her research. Towards the end of the semester, students shall submit a fully documented 12-page (minimum) (3000-3500 words) final term paper. The topic may be a critical analysis of any major historical figure, event, development or theme related to the course content.

Presentations: Each student shall also prepare two brief oral presentations: the first shall include a summary of the book review and a progress report on the student's research toward the term paper; the second shall be a rational and concise summary of the research findings and contents of the final term paper.

Mid-term and Final exams: The mid-term exam will cover all material discussed in-class up to the mid-term date, and will contain multiple-choice and essay questions. The final exam will have a similar format and will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on the material discussed in class in the second half of the semester.

Grading Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Any planned or unavoidable absences must be informed to the professor and suitably justified in writing (e.g., a doctor's note). After two unjustified absences, your final grade will suffer a reduction of one-step of a letter grade (i.e., from "A-" to "B+") for each additional unjustified absence.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following % values:

<i>Class participation:</i>	10%
<i>Class presentations</i>	10% (5% each)
<i>Term papers:</i>	30% (Book review, 10%; Final paper, 20%)
<i>Mid-term exam:</i>	20%
<i>Final exam:</i>	30%

Active and uninhibited in-class participation (answering and posing questions, participation in class debates, etc.) is highly encouraged. All assignments must be handed in on-time. Unjustified late submittals may be rejected at the discretion of the professor, and if accepted, will suffer a reduction of one step of a letter-grade for each day of tardiness.

Required Texts:

Carr, Raymond, ed. Spain, A History. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Supplementary reading material and recommended bibliographies for further insight, will be provided in-class or on the SUMC PC network.