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SPAN 417 – CHANGES IN SOCIAL VALUES IN SPAIN FROM 1975 TO 2005 (4 credits)

Course Description

After Franco's death in 1975, Spain suffered one of the more interesting processes of change in West Europe: transition from dictatorship to democracy. Political changes considered in 1978 new Constitution started a new era of liberty, social reform and accelerated cultural change. Youth culture, feminist movement, nationalist demands, and later the incorporation of Spain to EU transformed Spanish social values deeply which were represented in its cultural demonstrations. More recently, Spanish society and culture are experimenting new changes due to the mass of immigrants coming daily from Africa, Latin America and East Europe. In this course, we will study this extraordinary process from an interdisciplinary perspective in theoretic essays written by relevant Spanish intellectuals as well as international authors. Literary texts, movies, visual art, music and other media will also be analyzed.

Course format

As specified above, this course has two essential elements to make students understand better the process of change on one hand, and teach them how to analyze and interpret the social value changes in its cultural expressions. This course is based on student active participation. They will come to class prepared, having read the articles proposed for class and analyzed the material requested. Students will have two oral presentations for this course: one based on the analysis of an article and the other one on a novel written during the last quarter of the XXth. Century. A group paper will also be required based on an interview of Spanish citizens. The final research paper will have a minimum of 12 pages, will require three academic bibliographic references, and will be written following the MLA.

Readings

A reading package will be available in the library.

Evaluation

Active participation in class	20%
Oral presentations	15%
Homework	15%
Mid-term exam	20%
Group paper	10%
Final research paper	20%