

Special Topics in History HIST 3390



HISTORY 3390 History of Spain

Instructor: Selfa A. Chew-Meléndez, PhD.
Period: Maymester. May 18th – 29th, 2020
Office hours: Zoom meetings: Daily, 9:00 - 9:45 am or by appointment.
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Course description and objectives.

This Maymester course is a survey of the history and culture of Spain, starting with the presence of the Muslim communities and their expulsion from the Iberian Peninsula as the prelude to the construction of a global Spanish Empire. Our course ends with the Catalan Declaration of Independence in 2017. Since Spain's imperial expansion altered geopolitical configurations across continents since 1492, this course will critically examine the impact of colonization over diverse social sectors controlled by the Spanish rulers. Other themes include the development of regional and national identities as well as interlocking relations of power affecting race, gender, and religious dimensions of the Spanish society. Students will read a sample of texts to understand core concepts, view supporting materials for daily online assignments about key topics, and use related web sites for our online discussions, with specific deadlines.

This is an intensive course that requires daily reading, assignments and participation. Although we do not hold synchronous meetings, our coursework is distributed in 12 modules session with specific due dates for each assignment.

Objectives:

- To **critically** analyze the social, cultural, and political development of Spain.
- To evaluate the contributions of multiple cultures to the historical development of the economy and culture of Spain and communities affected by its expansion.
- To read historical texts and documents in order to use them as sources for clear, accurate, and informed discussion (in class and in your written reports);
- To become acquainted with research methodologies in social sciences.
- To identify the relation of history with other disciplines;
- Develop professional values by assuming leadership roles;
- To learn in a cooperative environment the *relationship* and *significance* of historical persons, events, ideas, and concepts; and

- To develop an awareness of the meaning of global citizenship.

At the end of this course I would like my students to be able to:

- Think critically about the social, cultural, and political development of Spain and its colonies.
- To evaluate their responsibilities as global citizens.
- Identify interlocking relations of power.
- Evaluate past events and social processes as factors that shape our present.
- Develop strategies to improve independent study skills.
- Be aware of cultural differences and research protocols.
- To understand race, gender, class, sexuality and religion as tools of analysis.
- To identify interlocking relations of power affecting our place in society.

All reading materials will be provided through Blackboard, internet, or our virtual library. Our main textbook can be accessed through a search in our library. Access it as a PDF file. If you have problems locating it, you may contact a library at ask@utep.libanswers.com

Phillips, William D., and Carla Rahn Phillips. *A Concise History of Spain*. Cambridge Concise Histories. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Students are responsible for all information provided in their textbook and documentaries. Students would be well advised to read several topics in advance of lectures and discussions. The reading assignments are by no means exhaustive; they will, however, provide clues to more detailed treatments of the great majority of issues and questions to be raised in this course.

Note that films and sections of videos will be used to heighten our appreciation of theories and their contexts. As new material is emerging, our list of this type of resources may change, but you are encouraged to still review them at home to enhance your analysis of our topics.

Grades will be determined by students’ performance in the following areas:

Grading Policy:

• Forums/Class discussions	30%
• Quizzes	20%
• Assignments	35%
• Final Exam	15%
<u>Total points</u>	100%

Final grades will be based on the total number of points earned in the course.

Grade Scale

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 -79%

F= 69% and under

It is highly recommended to visit Blackboard periodically. You can find your grades, post messages, form discussion groups and be reminded of tests, assignments, events, etc.

Remember: you can always submit your assignments in advance.

Late work policy:

- **All assignments are due on or before the assigned dates.**
- **There will be no make-ups for class/field trip participation or quizzes in class.**

It is important that you understand the reasons why you receive the grade you do. I encourage students to discuss the graded papers, quizzes or exams with me, but such conversation can only take place 24-hours after students receive their graded paper or quizzes.

Students' responsibilities

Your instructor will provide structure, content, guidance, and assessment. Most learning, however, will occur through students' active participation in their own acquisition of information and analytical skills.

- Students will submit assignments complete assessments as scheduled.
- Students will participate in daily class discussion forums.
- Students will complete all procedures required to drop the course when failing this course if they desire to obtain a "W."
- Students will be responsible for obtaining a syllabus, access to Blackboard, acquiring the reading material and following the course schedule.
- Students are responsible for the acquisition of materials and academic writing skills, including citation procedures.
- Students will reach their professor when in doubt before datelines.
- Students are expected to show respect for the instructor and one another regardless of opinion, cultural values and other group differences. When students show disrespect, use demeaning adjectives, make malicious comments, and "ad hominem" arguments (made personally against an opponent, or a community, instead of against the opponent's argument), points will be deducted from the assignment. If behavior is repeated, students may be dropped from the course.
- Students will discuss terminology and concepts that have been learned in other contexts but is not acceptable in academia, or in respectful social forums.
- Students will consider perspectives that are originated in disfranchised social sectors, recognizing that this course intends to provide the views and knowledge of communities largely excluded from main stream narratives.
- Students will establish connections among all readings in this class to increase their ability to examine diverse experiences in all regions controlled by Spain and their historical context.
- Communications with your peers and your professor must follow the protocol you will read at <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. Assignment points will be deducted when your messages do not follow the conventions listed in the site referenced. Assignments sent through UTEP e-mail will not be read or graded without a proper polite message, with salutation, the reason for sending the assignment through e-mail.
- All students should be supportive of a cooperative learning environment in the classrooms.
- Students will inform her professor of any mistake in their grades record, within a period of 36 hours.

To get an "A" in this course:

Blackboard Assignments

Assignments include responses to your instructor's prompts and summaries. Summaries are an important part of our assignments. They will include the name of the author, the title of the text, and the author's argument within the first lines in a complete sentence. This information will be followed (in the same paragraph) by the sources used by the author to support the argument, and main points or concepts. Summaries may include one or three sentences copied from the original text; however, they will not count towards the minimum number of text required.

Summaries are the "objective" part of the journal entry. Students are welcome to submit their comments in a separate paragraph. Your instructor will specifically request that you write your comments for some assignments. Comments are the "subjective" area in which you can critique, evaluate, or express other thoughts in relation to the topic in this course. Keep in mind that, for the purposes of this course, the term "race" will not be used unless it is applied as a category of analysis. Racism is very real and structural; however, racial classifications are arbitrary, socially constructed, and are not directly related to intellectual abilities or moral systems. Journal entries maximum scores will vary, according to the degree of complexity and number of texts assigned.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and journal entries with patchwork (pasting sentences which are directly copied from the texts) will earn zero points, whether intelligible or unclear. Cite the author, work title and page in a footnote following the Chicago/Turabian format.

Should I notice plagiarized text in your assignment after a score has been granted, I will cancel the first evaluation and report the case to the Dean of Students. A new grade will be awarded at the conclusion of the Dean of Students' investigation.

This is an excellent website to learn the mechanics of the Chicago/Turabian citation system:

<https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/documentation/docchicago/notes-bibliography/>

Quizzes

Quizzes are meant to direct students to important ideas in the articles and videos provided. Submitting your quizzes after reading the assigned texts and before writing your summaries will help you reflect on the important points developed by the researchers we are reading. Quizzes will be available through Blackboard and have specific datelines.

Forums

Forums are sites where the entire group meets for conversations on topics related to our readings. Read the instructions and prompt for each forum discussion before posting your reflection. This original posting must indicate (through footnotes) the sources of the information that supports your.

After posting a reflection in at least 400 words, and within the next two days, students will reply to two peer's text (preferably they will not answer to previous replies so we can distribute the conversation) in at least 150 words. Students must submit their original text before reading their peers' assignments. Opening the forum before posting your first entry will result in the cancellation of your grade. Do not duplicate texts you submitted to fulfill your journal entry requirement.

"Good point" or "I agree" type answers will not earn points. All answers must integrate the knowledge acquired through our readings. Read the feedback I will provide so you can improve future journal entries and forum reflections. Make sure you follow our discussions protocols: they are basically a request to respect all opinions, use academic language, and keep in mind that ours is a scholarly forum, distant from Facebook, Tweeter and other media in scope and purpose. Late postings carry a 10% deduction per day, recorded at the end of the course. Failure to submit assignments five times, including your original forum postings, will result in a failing grade.

Course evaluation. You will receive a link in your student e-mail box to access your course evaluation. Submit it promptly as the window is very short.