

**Course GA-01**            **CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN PRESENT-DAY SPAIN** (45 class hours)

Lecturer:                Dr. Juan Agudo Torrico ([torrico@us.es](mailto:torrico@us.es))

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**OBJECTIVES**

To foreground Spain's cultural plurality, while analyzing the reasons for this diversity, as well as for the prolific range of manifestations through which it is expressed.

**METHODOLOGY**

The syllabus items that make up the Program will be developed in class sessions by means of a combination of explanatory presentations on the part of the lecturer, together with the exploration of audiovisual documents by which to encourage active student participation.

**SYLLABUS**

1. INTRODUCCIÓN

An initial approach to, and further explanation of, certain key concepts from an anthropological perspective: Culture, Society, Social Classes, Enculturation, Socialization, Ethnic Identity, Nation, State, Ethnocentrism.

2. SPAIN'S POLITICALADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The historical process at work within Spain's emergence as a State.

Geographical and historical factors affecting Cultural Plurality.

The present-day political-administrative model: State, Autonomous Communities, Municipal Boroughs. Spain and the European Union.

3. CULTURAL DIVERSITY WITHIN SPAIN

The environmental variable as a factor within the construction of Spain's cultural diversity: dry Spain and wet Spain.

The Cantabrian Cornice: Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, the Basque Country.

The Culture of the Mediterranean: Catalonia, Levant, Andalucía. The Central Tableland.

4. RURAL SPAIN AND URBAN SPAIN

The historical configuration of the present-day dual-based system of differentiation within Spain.

Scattered population and centred population.

Agricultural townships and medium-sized townships.

The large metropolitan sprawls.

5. SPAIN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

The productive sectors.

Spain's social structure.

Emigration and Immigration.

The Welfare State and the Social Security system.

6. AGE AND GENDER IDENTITY

Education and Socialization: the Education System.

Age and social status: Rites of Passage.

Gender Identity and Social Roles.

Women's standing in present-day Spain

Spain's Youth.

Relations between the Sexes: 'Machismo' and Feminism.

#### 7. RELIGION IN SPAIN

From National-Catholicism to religious freedom.

Religious rituals and worship.

Institutional religion and popular religious sentiment.

#### 8. TRADITIONAL FESTIVE EVENTS (FIESTAS)

Significance and function of Festive Events.

The Festive Cycle.

Secular and religious Festive Events.

Public and private Festive Events: social relations within the festive environment.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY (General monographic sources)**

CARO BAROJA, J. (1975) *Estudios sobre la vida tradicional española*. Barcelona: Península.

----- *Los pueblos de España*, 2 Vol. (1975). Madrid: Istmo.

CUCÓ, J. (Coord.) (1990) *Identidades colectivas: etnicidad y sociabilidad en la Península Ibérica*. Valencia: Generalitat Valenciana.

LISÓN TOLOSANA, C. (1980) *Invitación a la Antropología Cultural de España*. Madrid. Akal

PAREDES, J. (Coord.) *Historia contemporánea de España. Siglo XX*. Madrid: Ariel, 2010. (5ª edic)

PRAT, J., MARTÍNEZ, U., CONTRERAS, J. y MORENO, I. (Comp.)(1991) *Antropología de los pueblos de España*. Madrid: Taurus

VILAR, P. *Historia de España*. Barcelona: Grijalbo, 1986.

#### **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Attendance on a regular basis and active participation in class sessions: 20%

Grades obtained in the mid-semester and end-of-semester exams: 50%

Essay assignments (2 to be undertaken as the Course develops): 30%