



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES FROM A SPANISH PERSPECTIVE**

COURSE DATA

Degree	Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges
Academic Year	2023-24
Credits	6
Course type	Elective
Department	International Relations
Language of instruction	English

Instructor: Dr Almudena González del Valle Brena, room B 415.
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SHORT DESCRIPTION

Current International Issues from a Spanish Perspective will analyze international issues and dynamics that have impacted Spain and the world. The country's international history and its evolution in foreign policy will also be studied. The course will be divided into 3 main sections and further developed in various themes. Spanish foreign policy will be covered along the main topics, focusing on contemporary international relations issues.

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

MODULE 1: SPAIN AS A GLOBAL POWER: BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

TOPIC 0: THE MUSLIM EXPERIENCE IN SPAIN AND THE BIRTH OF A MODERN STATE

TOPIC 1: 1.1. NEW WORLDS AND HISPANIC GLOBALIZATION.

1.2. THE END OF THE EMPIRE

TOPIC 2: SPAIN'S CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATION

MODULE 2: GLOBAL ACTORS

TOPIC 3: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SPAIN AND EU

TOPIC 4: OTHER GEOPOLITICAL OPERATORS: SPAIN AND UN; SPAIN AND NATO

MODULE 3: TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES

TOPIC 5: ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

TOPIC 6: DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATIONS

TOPIC 7: NATIONALISMS AND POPULISMS

METHODOLOGY

IN CLASSROOM: Theoretical background provided by the lecturer in class.

In-class activities: answer short quizzes over required readings or as a takeaway activity; case studies in groups, group or individual article analysis and preparation for policy paper writing about a specific topic explained in theoretical lessons; topic debates; group presentation of selected topics; individual presentation of policy papers. The specific guidelines will be explained in class during the sessions.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: The student will be required to read selected readings, watch videos, listen to podcasts, or bring in press/internet articles about current issues and be prepared for short in-class quizzes that will test this. In both cases, other activities will entail writing individual policy papers, group assignments, and an oral presentation.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Percentage
FINAL EXAM	Analytical and summarizing skills.	50%
GROUP PRESENTATION	Summarizing skills, public speaking skills, clarity, pose, voice, and audience engagement	15%
INDIVIDUAL WRITING ASSESSMENT AND STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATION	Analytical and summarizing skills. Clarity. Public presentation skills, clarity.	20%
PARTICIPATION	Attendance and participation in class activities	15%

- Committing any serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material, or **copying** in the exam or any other graded activity, **will imply not being able to pass the course in the ordinary assessment period.**
- At the beginning of the term the professor will announce the office hours for the course. Tutorials are an essential part of the development of the course, and students may attend tutorials during the course within those office times, but it is recommended that they are arranged in advance with the professor.
- Any non-face-to-face learning activity that requires the submission of an assignment/document, etc. will be submitted by the student through Moodle, in pdf or word format / Kaltura.
- To be able to take the final exam, students must not have missed **more than one third of the classes without justification.** If this requirement is not met, the student may lose the right to be assessed both in the ordinary and extraordinary assessment

period (art. 93-1 of the General Regulations). Failure to attend to the first hour of a two-hour lecture, means having missed the whole session in terms of attendance, regardless of whether the student attends the second hour.

AI USE REGULATIONS

- **Detection of illegal use of AI will carry a sanction (art. 168.2.e, Reglamento General de la Universidad). also, in group assignments, the sanction will be adopted by every member of the group or team.**

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)		
CONTACT HOURS	OUTSIDE CLASSROOM	OVERALL
60	90	150

READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

CHISLETT, William (2013) *Spain: What Everyone Needs to Know*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

HAASS, Richard (2020) *The World: A Brief Introduction*, New York: Penguin Press.

LARRES, K. & WITTLINGER, R. (edit.) (2020) *Understanding Global Politics*, London and New York: Routledge.

MARTÍNEZ MONTES, Luis Francisco (2018) *Spain, a Global History*, Madrid: Global Square Editorial.

OTHER INTERESTING REFERENCES

BALFOUR, Sebastian (ed.) (2005) *The Politics of Contemporary Spain*, London and New York: Routledge.

BENEYTO, José María and PEREIRA, Juan Carlos (dirs.) (2011) *Política exterior española. Un balance de futuro*, Madrid: Biblioteca Nueva (2 vols.)

CHISLETT, William (2016) *New course for Spain Beyond the crisis*, Madrid: Real Instituto Elcano. Available at:
<https://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/monografias/a-new-course-for-spain-beyond-the-crisis/>

MAGONE, José María (2009) *Contemporary Spanish Politics*, London and New York: Routledge.

PEREIRA, Juan Carlos (coord.) (2010) *La política exterior de España. De 1800 hasta hoy*, Barcelona: Ariel.

RADCLIFF, Pamela Beth (2017) *Modern Spain. 1808 to the Present*, Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

SMITH, Angel (2009) *Historical Dictionary of Spain*, Lanham: Scarecrow Press.

TUSSELL, Javier (2007) *Spain, from dictatorship to democracy: 1939 to the present*, Malden: Blackwell.
