COMILLAS
UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA
CIHS

# COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **Imagining Spain**

## COURSE DATA

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| Degree | Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges |
| Academic Year | 2026 -27 |
| Credits | 6 |
| Course type | Elective |
| Departament | Translation, Interpreting and Multilingual Communication] |
| Language of instruction | English |
| Name and email of instructor | Dr. Andrew Samuel Walsh<br>aswalsh@comillas.edu |

## SHORT DESCRIPTION

**This course consists of a comparative and contrastive study of how Anglo-American writers from various cultures and eras have represented Spain in their texts. The writers whose work we will study include Richard Ford, George Borrow, Washington Irving, Ernest Hemingway, Langston Hughes, Martha Gellhorn, John Dos Passos, George Orwell, Gerald Brenan, Laurie Lee and other contemporary authors such as Michael Jacobs, Chris Stewart, and Ben Lerner. The overall aim is to familiarize students with the vast amount of literature that has been produced in English about Spain, its history, and its culture. The expected outcome is that they will be able to produce their own critical work on this subject.**

## CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

TOPIC 1: Identity and Imagination. Anglo-American Visions of Spain.

TOPIC 2: Traveller's Tales and Romantic Visions of Spain - Richard Ford and his journey around Spain.

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| TOPIC 3: The Anglo-American vision of Andalusia - Washington Irving and his *Tales of the Alhambra* |
| Topic 4: The Spain of George Borrow and Gypsies. |
| TOPIC 5: The literary legacy of bullfighting – Hemingway and Spain |
| TOPIC 6: Holy Week in Spain – some traveller's experiences. |
| TOPIC 7: The Spanish Civil War and English literature – visions of the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath |
| TOPIC 8: Spain in the modern Anglo imagination - The fabled good life in the South. |

## METHODOLOGY

1. Class presentations on each of the topics in the syllabus
2. Analysis and discussion of the topics presented in class
3. Each topic in the syllabus requires students to read the material set by the professor and be ready to discuss these texts in class. The supplementary texts will be provided to students either in photocopy form or will be accessible through the Moodle
4. The first part of the class will be devoted to dealing with any doubts about the previous session and reviewing students' comprehension of the subjects discussed.
5. Students will be expected to participate actively in the classroom discussion of the topics and texts included in the syllabus and their level of participation will be reflected in the final grade.
6. Students will be expected to prepare a brief classroom presentation (max. 10 minutes) on any topic related to the syllabus. The presentation must be done by groups of minimum 3 and maximum 4 students.
7. Tutorial time will be used for clearing up any doubts about the material discussed in class and monitoring students' progress with their individual assignments.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

| Assessment type | Assessment criteria | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| FINAL EXAM | 2-hour hand-written exam with four options for a short essay related to the topics covered.<br>The grade will depend on the coherence and originality of their answers nd will also | **50** |

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| | take into account the quality of the written expression in English | |
| GROUP PRESENTATION | 15-minute presentation in groups of 3-4 students on a topic related to the subject. The students will be graded based on the degree of preparation and the overall quality, originality and coherence of the presentation and its relevance to the subject. | 20 |
| WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT | This will be in the form of a piece of original creative writing that could be a diary, a travelogue of their experiences in Spain or a study of a particular author or text related to the course. The assignment may also include sketches and pictures | 20 |
| CLASS PARTICIPATION | Participation in class. | 10 |

- 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.**

- The **use of AI** to create complete works or relevant parts, without citing the source or the tool or without being expressly allowed in the description of the work, will be considered plagiarism and regulated according to the General Regulations of the University.

- 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, always in PDF format.

- 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 or not the student the second hour.

- **The course requires a native or advanced level of English (C1)**

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

## READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES


*Spain in Mind. An Anthology.* (2007). New York: Vintage Books

Ali, T. (1993). *Shadows of the Pomegranate Tree* London: Verso Min. 12 references

Borrow, G. (1841). *The Zincali, an account of the Gypsies of Spain.* (Available free at: https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/565

Brenan, G. (1963). *South from Granada*. Harmondsworth: Penguin

Burns Marañón, T. (2000). *Hispanomanía.* Barcelona: Plaza y Janés.

Ford, R. (1847) *A Handbook for Travellers in Spain.* (Available free at https://archive.org/details/ahandbookfortra02fordgoog/page/n6

Hemingway, E (1999) *For Whom the Bell Tolls.* Vintage Books, New York.

Irving, W. (1832) *Tales of the Alhambra*. (Available free at https://archive.org/details/talesfromalhambr00irvi/

Jacobs, M. (1994). *Beyond Hopes and Memories. A Spanish Journey*. London: Picador

Lee, L. (1969). *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*. Harmondsworth: Penguin

Lerner, Ben (2013). *Leaving the Atocha Station*. London: Faber and Faber

Orwell, G. (2013). *A Homage to Catalonia.* Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Stewart, C. (1999). *Driving Over Lemons. An Optimist in Spain*. London: Sort of Books.