

## COURSE: CONTEMPORARY SPAIN: GEOGRAPHY, SOCIETY AND INSTITUTIONS I

### VIDEOCONFERENCE

<b>Language</b>	Spanish
<b>Minimum level of Spanish language required</b>	From Intermediate
<b>Hours of instruction</b>	45 h
<b>Credits</b>	6 ECTS

#### Introduction

The Spanish culture courses by videoconference are spread out over the semester. During this time, the student has access to the study materials, a syllabus of practical exercises, complementary self-learning materials, etc. offered weekly in the Campus Virtual so the students can work with it whenever they want. These materials, alongside synchronous group videoconferences (from Monday to Thursday) or asynchronous depending on the time zones (almost half of the course hours), and individualized tutorials also by videoconference (almost half of the course hours), as well as the use of forums to be in contact with the class group will be the basis of your learning.

The personalized attention, the professionalism of our teachers, the quality of the materials and constant feedback are our guarantee of success.



#### Course description

The main aim of the course is to provide an overview of the physical and natural environment of Spain, and then to study its territory in relation to the social sphere and the economy, nationally and regionally. Firstly, we will analyse the country's physical and human geography. Secondly, Spain's current diversity will be explained through its natural regions and its autonomous communities; and the path to democracy through the process of democratic transition. Students will analyse the Spanish Constitution and current institutions, and find out about current Spanish society through some of the most representative aspects, such as: population, economy or culture.

#### Methodology

Each session will be comprised of a presentation made by the lecturer to introduce the topic, which will then be studied using maps, graphics and texts, which students will work on in groups actively, clarifying and resolving with the lecturer any questions about the material or topic.

The main aim is for the student to access as much information as possible and, at the end of the course, achieve the initial objectives, that is, better and deeper understanding of the geographic, social and institutional reality of Spain today.

## Certification and assessment

During the course, the student will do continued work through the virtual campus with the materials provided by the teacher. Also, will participate actively in the group videoconferences, the forums and the individualized tutorials, by videoconference too.

To obtain the ECTS credits a final grade will be necessary, based on the following percentages:

30% Continued work through the Campus Virtual

30% Participation in the videoconferences and tutorials

40% Exam or written work

## Programme

- Geography
  - Introduction. The main geographic features of the Iberian Peninsula: its situation and configuration.
  - The relief of the Iberian Peninsula: its main structural and topographic units.
  - Climatic diversity in Iberian lands: temperatures, rains and winds.
  - Rivers, lakes and lagoons.
  - The main geological characteristics.
  - Climax vegetation.
  - The main natural parks and protected areas in Spain.
  
- Society and institutions
  - Spain today through sociocultural and economic diversity
  - The political transition to democracy
  - The Spanish Constitution: the state of the autonomous communities and institutions
  - Population and society



## Bibliography

### Geography

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BURGUEÑO, J. (2011): *La invención de las provincias*, Madrid, Los Libros de la Catarata.

GIL OLCINA, A. (ed.) (1997): *Climatología general*, Barcelona, Ariel.

*Geografía de España*, Ariel, Barcelona, 2001.

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NADAL, J. (1991): *La población española*, Barcelona, Ariel.

*Atlas de la industrialización de España (1750-2000)*, Barcelona, Crítica, 2003.

RABELLA, J. M. (1998): *Atlas de España y Portugal*, Barcelona, Península.

*Atlas de la Península Ibérica*, Barcelona, Península.

VILA VALENTÍ, J. (1996): *La península Ibérica*, Barcelona, Ariel.

Society and institutions

FUSI, J.P. - PALAFOX, J. (1997): *España: 1808-1996. El desafío de la modernidad*, Madrid, Espasa-Calpe.

PICAZO, M. T. (1996): *Historia de España del siglo XX*, Barcelona, Crítica (Colección Nuevos Instrumentos Universitarios).

NAVARRO, V. (2006): *El subdesarrollo social de España*, Barcelona, Editorial Anagrama.

TREMLETT, G. (2006): *España ante sus fantasmas*, Madrid, Editorial Siglo XXI.

