

TITLE: UNDERSTANDING THE SPANIARDS AND OTHER EUROPEANS

LANGUAGE: English

TOTAL HOURS: 45 hours

NUMBER OF SESSIONS: 24

CREDITS: 3 credits

SIS Course Code:

This course will appear on a Jacksonville University transcript as

DESCRIPTION

For most SAE students, the Study Abroad Experience in Barcelona is their first contact with Spain and Europe.

They can be overwhelmed by the cultural differences between their home country (mainly the USA), Spain (where they will spend most of their time) and other countries in Europe they will travel to.

This course is to help them to understand the Spanish culture in order to adapt better and to take the most of their European experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will:

- Have a deeper awareness of the impact of national cultures on daily life in Spain.
- Know better the huge cultural differences inside Europe, with a special focus on Spain and some key European countries:
 - Spain
 - France
 - Germany
 - Italy
 - Nordic countries
 - The UK
- Know the most significant cultural dimensions between the US, Spain and other key European countries:
 - Identity: individual or collective
 - Rules: strict or flexible
 - Task orientation or people orientation
 - Trust
 - Expression of emotions
 - Vision of time
 - Attitude towards change
 - Distribution of power and hierarchy
 - Gender roles

- Understand the logic behind each cultural preference.
- Be more aware of their own personal orientations.
- Have tools to adapt more effectively to people from European countries

METHODOLOGY

Classes will be conducted in seminar format promoting student participation.

The aim is to cover the subjects described in the “Contents” section both from a practical and theoretical perspective, so the course divides into theoretical lectures and tutorials.

The tutorials represent a practical application, via case-studies and exercises, of the knowledge acquired during the lectures. The students will also have to make some presentations in class.

Given that a major objective of this course is to be able to adapt to people from other cultures, students will work individually in class at the end of each chapter on their own cultural orientation, the way they are seen by others and what they can do to bridge the cultural gap. The result will be a paper (“My Personal Orientation”) to be delivered at the end of the course.

EVALUATION

Attendance at classes and field trips is mandatory; poor attendance will affect the final grade of the student as well as the everyday participation grade.

The final grade consists of: class participation, class presentations, a midterm written exam, a final written exam, and a final paper.

The breakdown of grades is made up as follows:

- Class participation 20%
- Individual Class presentation 10%
- Group Class presentation 10%
- Midterm written exam 20%
- Final written exam 20%
- Final paper 20%

Class Participation: Active class participation includes coming to class prepared and on-time, having read the material for that day and showing active reflection on that material, answering questions from the professor, generating questions and engaging in group activities using required reading for that day. Students are encouraged to express their opinions in class with the professor and the other students.

Exams: Both the midterm and the final exams may contain a mix of short answer and essay questions aimed to test the students’ full comprehension of facts and the ability to argue their opinions based on class material.

The guidelines for exams are as follows:



- Any student found cheating will automatically fail this exam. Additional sanctions may be

imposed.

- Talking or communicating with other students during the exam is forbidden.
- Desks must be cleared of all books, notes and papers. All unauthorized materials must be put away and remain out of sight throughout the exam.
- All telephones and electronic devices must be turned completely off during the exam. • Students arriving later than 15 minutes will not be allowed into the classroom to take the examination, subject to the decision of the instructor.
- At the end of the exam, students will remain seated until their papers are collected. No one may leave the room until excused.
- Should assistance be required, students will attract the attention of the instructor. • Failure to follow these rules will automatically lead to failure of the exam.

FIELD STUDIES

The course will include field studies and/or guest speakers. These field studies will be directly related to the course work, and may include visits to museums.

Some field studies that may be included in this course include:

- Visit to the Museum of History of Catalonia
- Visit to the Museum of World Cultures
- Visit to temporary Exhibits

COURSE CONTENT

SESSION and DATE	HOURS	CONTENT	READINGS / ASSIGNMENTS
1	1h45	Introduction to the course Lewis Model Cultural dimensions	
2	1h45	Culture Shock & Acculturation	
3	1h45	Individualism / Collectivism Kinds of family	<i>Quiz on Reading</i>
4	1h45	Individualism / Collectivism Communication styles	
5	1h45	Individualism / Collectivism Communication styles	<i>Quiz on Reading</i>
6	1h45	Individualism / Collectivism Decision Making Process	

7	1h45	<i>Field Trip: Museum of History of Catalonia</i>	<i>Field Trip: Museum of History of Catalonia</i>
8	1h45	Vision of Time Value of Time: Scarce / Plentiful Monochronic / Polychronic	<i>Individual Presentation</i>
9	1h45	Vision of Time Past / Present /Future Orientation Short / Middle / Long Term Orientation	<i>Individual Presentation</i>



BARCELONA SiS
SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

10	1h45	Attitude towards the unknown Innovation / Stability	<i>Individual Presentation</i>
11	1h45	Attitude towards the unknown Innovation / Stability	<i>Individual Presentation</i>
12	1h45	<i>Temporary Exhibit / Guest Speaker</i>	<i>Temporary Exhibit / Guest Speaker</i>
13	1h45	MIDTERM EXAM	
14	1h45	Power Distance Communication: Formal / Informal	<i>Group Presentation</i>
15	1h45	Power Distance Level of Centralization	<i>Group Presentation</i>
16	1h45	Gender Roles	<i>Group Presentation</i>
17	1h45	Rules: Strict / Flexible Contracts, Price, Marketing...	<i>Group Presentation</i>
18	1h45	<i>Field Trip: Museum of World Cultures</i>	<i>Field Trip: Museum of World Cultures</i>
19	1h45	Rules: Strict / Flexible Corruption Initial Trust	<i>Quiz on Reading</i>
20	1h45	Involvement: Personal / Impersonal Communication: High / Low context	
21	1h45	Involvement: Personal / Impersonal Business & Negotiation	<i>Quiz on Reading</i>

22	1h45	Emotions: Expressive / neutral Body Language	
23	1h45	Course Review	
24	1h45	FINAL EXAM	<i>"Personal Orientation" Paper handed</i>

**Number of sessions and order of assignments may vary depending on the term.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

SIS programs foster critical thinking and intellectual development of its students. In doing so, SIS requires that students introduce their original thoughts, opinions, and ideas in all of their assignments with the support of cited sources. Any violations of academic integrity – such as cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, academic misconduct, fabrication, misuse or misrepresentation of research, and noncompliance – may result in an automatic “F” or immediate dismissal from the program if the student falls below the minimum number of credits required for the term; 12 credits during the semester, or 3 hours during the summer.

Cheating: Any action that violates the rules and guidelines given by the instructor for submitting assignments or exams.

Plagiarism: Any action that presents the ideas, opinions, research, etc. of another as your own.

- Directly copying another’s work without citing sources



- Submitting another person’s work into your own without properly citing the source(s) used.
- Paraphrasing another person’s work without providing appropriate citations

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting a piece of one’s own work to receive credit for multiple assignments in one or more classes.

Academic Misconduct: Any act that impedes or threatens the open exchange, expression, or flow of information or fair evaluation of students. This includes intimidation and complicity in any acts or attempts to interfere with the ethical and fair submission and evaluation of student work.

Fabrication: Providing inaccurate or false information, including research findings, quotes, and cited sources, etc.

Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with the values, objectives, and procedures contained in this policy.

As SIS is accredited by Jacksonville University, students are held accountable to JU's [Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct](#). You are expected to read and understand the JU terms and regulations of Academic Misconduct.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

There are no excused absences. If a student misses class because s/he is sick, it counts as one of the allowed absences. Quizzes, exams and participation points that are missed because of an absence cannot be recuperated. Students that arrive late (5+ minutes) will be marked as absent for the day.

Semester Allowed Absences: Students are allowed three absences throughout the semester without penalty. These permitted absences are meant to be used for sick days. Starting with the fourth absence, the student's final grade will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade) per additional absence. For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

Summer Allowed Absences: Students are allowed two class absences without penalty. There are no excused absences, as these permitted absences are meant to be used for sick days. Starting with the third absence, the student's final grade will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Readings

Wattley-Ames, H (1999) *"Spain is different"*, Intercultural Press

Gannon, M.J. & Pillai, R.K. (2012) *"Understanding Global Cultures: Metaphorical Journeys through 31 Nations", Clusters of Nations, and Diversity*, 5th Edition, SAGE Publications.

"The Cultural Imperative" Richard D. Lewis 2007 – Intercultural Press

Recommended Readings

Hofstede, G. & Hofstede, G. J. *"Cultures and Organizations – Software of the mind"*. McGraw Hill

Trompenaars, A. *"Riding the Waves of Culture: Understanding Diversity in Global Business"* McGraw-Hill.

Walker, D.; Walker, T; Walker, D.M. (2002) *Doing Business Internationally: The Guide to Cross-Cultural Success*, 2nd Edition, McGraw-Hill.

Erin Meyer, *"The Culture Map"* – Public Affairs

Richard Hill, *"We Europeans"* - Europublications

"The Xenophobe's guide to the..."

Dean Foster, *"The Global Etiquette Guide to Europe"* – John Wiley & sons

John Mole, "*Mind your manners*" - *Financial Times*

Georges F. Simons, "*Eurodiversity*" – Butterworth Heinemann
