

**MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSIT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES**

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**SPAN 498: CONTEMPORARY SPAIN THROUGH VISUAL ARTS (3 credits)**

Summer 2021

Instructor: Dr. Rubén Galve Rivera  
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***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course focuses on the intricacies of current Spanish societal and cultural norms through the visualization, analysis and discussion of cinematic pieces, from short clips to documentaries and movies, as well as other forms of visual art. This course aims to not only improve students' overall language skills, but do so through the provision and reception of content that regularly promotes self-discovery by means of a culture different than their own.

Prerequisite: SPAN 204 or departmental approval.

***OBJECTIVES***

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1. process and express more complex and abstract thoughts in the target language;
2. develop abstract thinking and speech in target language;
3. point out the main aspects of Spanish culture and its current social climate, and explain the reasons behind them.
4. increase their listening proficiency in target language through the exposure to a more realistic speech.
5. access a number of media platforms in Spanish that allow them to continue to improve the aforementioned objectives on their own, after the course ends.

***ASSURANCE OF LEARNING & TIME ON TASK***

This course is delivered online, via: a) Blackboard; and b) the instructor's personal website. Students will develop their listening and writing skills in Spanish, and will gain a solid foundation of complex (abstract) vocabulary and critical thinking in the second language. Students will also gain an understanding of basic grammatical items and concepts through listening, writing, and speaking.

Students are expected to watch and go over the visual items assigned, and complete the assigned activities related to each one before the due dates. It is important to study and practice daily, since the acquisition of a second language is a cumulative process and requires a solid foundation of previous

material in order to incorporate new information. It is very important to realize that languages are not learnt, but acquired. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 9 study hours weekly to succeed. Students are expected to meet the learning outcomes for this course through passive learning (visualization and listening of digital media), short writing assignments, online discussions, projects, and/or presentations.

### **COURSE MATERIAL**

Required Materials:

- All materials are provided by the instructor.

### **Course Blackboard Site:**

Students must have a university email account to access the site. On this site, I will post the syllabus, course material, assignments, and other information, as well as any announcements for the class (changes in test dates, sickness, etc.). It is the students' responsibility to access this site before every class. These materials, as well as additional (optional) ones will be posted on my personal website, as well, under the "Courses → Span 498" tab.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Topics (subject to revision as the course progresses):**

- I. De-stereotyping Spain
- II. Notes on culture and society.
- III. Intro to politics: 15-M; from bi-partisan to multi-partisan to social-communism.
- IV. *8 apellidos*: Nationalism and Sub-cultures within culture.
- V. The feminist boom.
- VI. Immigration Chaos & "Los MENAS".
- VII. Covid'19.
- VIII. Niche cultures.
- IX. *Informe Robinson's* Psychology of the athlete: A portrait of priorities and simplicity.
- X. Celebrities.
- XI. Spanish pragmatism through the lens of incorrect humor.

### **Virtual (oral) discussions:**

The class will "meet" on Zoom six times during this course for 1 hour (approximately) each time. The professor will introduce and explain topics, and students are expected to engage and contribute to discussions on any given topic in a proactive manner. Participation is graded on the following scale: (0)= not present; (6) present; infrequent involvement; (8 pts.)= moderate contribution, adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation or analysis; straightforward information; (10 pts.)= good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in ongoing and proactive fashion.

### **Written assignments:**

Students will read texts and/or watch videos, and will then a) answer questions, or b) write a summary and reflection about them.

**Blogging:**

Students are required to write one entry per topic, as well as two responses (minimum) to their classmates' posts. These entries are intended for reflection, understanding, integration, comparison, and provide critical thinking overall. They are not meant to be a list of what was seen or watched.

**Final Paper:**

Students are required to submit a final paper. Students will reflect on what was covered and learnt throughout the course, provide an in-depth comparative analysis in regards to both Spanish and North American culture, and explain how this course impacted their understanding of a different culture.

**EVALUATION & GRADING POLICY****Grade Scale:**

A (90-100)    B (80-89)    C (70-79)    D (60-69)

**Grade Breakdown:**

Virtual (oral) discussions	25%
Written assignments	25%
Blogging	25%
Final paper	25%

**Late Work Policy**

No late work will be graded. Assignment extensions will be granted only in the case of a documented emergency.

**DEPARTMENT & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES****Attendance:**

Attendance on *Zoom* is mandatory for this course. In order to be eligible to pass this course, students must not miss more than two sessions. Excused absences will be dealt with and reviewed on an individual basis, after submitting appropriate documentation.

**E-mail:**

When messaging peers and the instructor, students must follow proper e-mail etiquette. Address the recipient by their formal title and sign your name after the message. I will answer text messages and e-mails during normal business hours (M-F 9am-5pm) and will respond to any questions and concerns within 48 hours.

**Student Conduct:**

Students must illustrate respect for both their peers and instructor. If a student has a question, concern, or comment, (s)he should contact the instructor first. If a student believes that (s)he is being the target of harassment by a fellow student, (s)he should contact the instructor as soon as possible, in order to try to get the situation resolved. Should the situation continue, the student should contact the Dean of Students.

**Copyright Statement:**

Some of the materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the

course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

**Plagiarism:**

I take plagiarism very seriously. All work must be original to you and done for the first time this semester for this class. You may not submit works or parts of works previously submitted for credit in another class.

**Any attempt--whether deliberate or inadvertent--to represent someone else's writing and research as your own will be punished with a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the entire course.**

**Syllabus Change Policy:**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus, including the schedule of assignments, lectures, and the selected topics.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER / CANCELLATION EXPECTATIONS**

N/A (as this is an online course).

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

*Missouri Southern State University is committed to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is the student's own, unless designated otherwise. Submitting work that is not one's own is unacceptable and is considered a serious violation of University policy. Cheating is a serious offense that invalidates the purpose of a university education. Any student who takes credit for the work of another person, offers or accepts assistance beyond that allowed by an instructor, or uses unauthorized sources for a test or assignment is cheating. Students must be conscious of their responsibilities as scholars, to learn to discern what is included in plagiarism as well as in other breaches of the Student Handbook, and must know and practice the specifications for citations in scholarly work. When dealing with cases of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may choose to use the campus judicial system; this includes filing an incident report with the Dean of Students, who may act on the report by issuing a written warning or by recommending disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate.*

**Disability Accommodation Statement:**

*If you are an individual with a disability and require an accommodation for this class, please notify the instructor or the Coordinator of Student Disability Services, at the Student Success Center (417) 659-3725.*

**Non-Discrimination and Title IX Statement:**

*Missouri Southern State University emphasizes the dignity and equality common to all persons and adheres to a strict non-discrimination policy regarding the treatment of individual faculty, staff, students, third parties on campus, and applicants for employment and admissions. In accord with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally protected class, in employment or in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University, including, but not limited to, athletics, instruction, grading,*

*the awarding of student financial aid, recruitment, admissions, and housing. Questions, concerns, and reports about Title IX, including sexual misconduct or pregnancy educational planning, should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator in the Student Affairs Office at (417) 625-9532.*

*I will seek to keep information private to the greatest extent possible. However, as an instructor, I have a mandatory reporting responsibility. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred related to Title IX. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting a counselor in the Advising, Counseling, and Testing Services Office (ACTS) at (417) 625-9324. Crime reports to law enforcement can be made at (417) 623-3131.*