SPAN 3211 Syllabus

Spain Today, RMA, 3 Credits

Summer 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

The course introduces students to current issues in the culture, history, and society of 21st century Spain within the context of the European Union. Topics include demographic and societal changes, issues on immigration and minorities, the political and economic landscape, as well as regional languages and nationalisms. Journalistic articles, lectures, videos, as well as cultural and institutional visits are used as springboard for discussion of social, economic, and political issues of contemporary Spain.

Course Learning Outcomes

- To understand, describe and analyze the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system by increasing awareness of Spanish culture and history.

- To identify and contrast such issues with current facts and trends in US culture and civilization.

- To improve the students' oral and written production skills as well as their reading and oral comprehension in the target language.

Required Course Materials

For every class meeting there will be assigned readings available electronically on Canvas.

Grading Policy

Attendance	15%
Participation	15%
Oral presentation	10%

Response papers (2)	30%
Final exam	30%

Grading Scale

A: 90-100   B: 80-89.9   C: 70-79.9   D: 60-69.9   F: 0-59.9

Note: if you are taking this class Pass/Fail, you must earn a grade of 60 or above (D) to get a Pass grade.

Description of Graded Components

There will be two response papers related to the readings and class discussions. These papers will express your reaction to a given topic from a critical point of view. Response papers will be about one page long (maximum 500 words), typed, double-spaced, and spellchecked in Spanish. They must be free of typos and grammatical errors. Points will be taken off for grammar/spelling mistakes. Detailed instructions for each paper will be posted on Canvas.

Each student will deliver a short (about 10 minutes) presentation in class addressing current events and news. Detailed instructions for topics and dates to sign-up will be posted on Canvas.

The final exam will be administered on Canvas using digital proctoring (Honorlock). Please note the following technical requirements: a reliable internet connection, a webcam and microphone, and a secure quiet location. You will be asked to provide a picture ID and take a selfie as part of the process. Honorlock requires Google Chrome with the Honorlock extension and is not compatible with Linux OS, Virtual Machines, tablets, or smartphones. The exam will consist of identifying vocabulary and specific concepts learned in class as well as short essay questions and a text commentary. You are encouraged to study every day and keep a log of important key concepts. No make-ups are allowed.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation
- Students are required to attend all classes and all cultural and institutional visits. For each absence (from class or visit), you will lose one point from your final grade. Arriving more than 10 minutes late counts as a full absence.
- Students must participate actively in class as well as in cultural activities. Participation is not the same as attendance. They are two separate grades. Arriving

late, failing to do the readings, acting passively, and/or speaking English can cause your participation grade to drop to an F.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning

- Information Literacy

- Intercultural Competence

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Pre-Requisites

Minimum Spanish at 2002 level or above. Students are expected to speak, read, write, and understand advanced Spanish.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

In some of the classroom activities, you will be asked to work with other classmates. You are also encouraged to form online study groups in order to help yourself and others understand the course materials. However, any other assignment that forms the basis of your final grade must be your own original work. This includes exams and essays.

You may use generative AI programs (e.g. ChatGPT) to help generate ideas and brainstorm. You should be aware that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, biased or otherwise problematic. Also, use of these tools may stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

Per Georgia Tech's Honor Code, you may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). When/if you use AI platforms in your assignments, please write a note to clarify where in your process you used AI, include the prompt used to generate the material, and which platform(s) you used. See this article for how to cite AI properly. The use of AI tools during a proctored exam is never permitted.

Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

NO cell phones are allowed in class. Please turn them off and put them away. Failing to comply with this requirement will automatically drop your participation grade to an F.

Statement About Copyright

Instructors own the copyright in all course materials, including classroom recordings, power point presentations, lecture notes, and exams. You are not allowed to reproduce, distribute, sell, or publicly post any materials without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of a Georgia Tech's professor's intellectual property constitutes academic misconduct and is a violation of [Georgia Tech's Student Code of Conduct](#).

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.