

Syllabus: INTA 3303A & MGT 4803R1

Political Economy of Development Spain and Portugal: Sustainability INTA 3303a & MGT 4803R2 Summer 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

Modern Spain is fascinating, complex, dynamic, and a wonderful clash of old and new, traditional and modern, democratic and authoritarian. Portugal is a puzzling and alluring globalizing force in successive waves. Both have considerable policy successes and challenges. Both countries were dictatorships for much of the 20th century. Both countries joined the European Union at the same time, as well the Shengen agreement and the Eurozone. Both countries are currently emerging from a dramatic economic crisis caused by COVID and are facing cleavages of immigration, EU exhaustion and opportunity. Both are current success stories in Europe. Both have emerging far right parties that are altering democracy and politics. Both benefit and suffer from remote workers, mass tourism, and war. These two countries that share the Iberian Peninsula are so similar, yet so different. This study abroad explores the historical, cultural, economic, and political comparisons and contrasts of Portugal and Spain over a 7-week program in Lisbon, Madrid, Valencia, and Barcelona.

The 3 courses on this study abroad overlap in content, activities, and in the readings (all 3 books--one being an historical novel of your choice--touch on these different aspects), but the principal divisions are as follows. 2220 examines history, culture and politics of Portugal and Spain. This course has the most reading and the least amount of group or individual research. There are 2 books plus the novel and some limited additional reading. The second course is INTA 3303/Mgt 4803 and looks at regional development within Spain and Portugal with a major focus city and country branding. Regionalism, nationalism, and localisms are important and powerful in Spain and Portugal, and we will use tourism, urban development, sustainability policies/practices, soccer, city branding, street art, mega events, and architecture to understand the forces of regionalism and the models for local regional development in a modern economy. The challenges of managing the benefits and costs of tourism is a major focus. Much of this will take place in a comparison of Lisbon, Valencia, Barcelona, and Madrid. The final course, INTA 3321/MGT 4803 looks at the macro political economy issues of the economic crisis, the challenge of immigration/emigration, the shifts in the EU, national economic policy, and the opportunities for business, exports, and value-added industry in the 21st century in Portugal and Spain. The major activity of this class is a 4 day business competition at the leading incubator and accelerator in Iberia, Lanzadera and the EDEM Business School.

Core Impacts:

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

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

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

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

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social or geographic relationships develop, persist or change.

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

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history, culture, and politics of Spain and Portugal.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the current political situation in Spain and Portugal, and the challenges and opportunities in the future.

Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.

Required Course Materials

Giles Trimlett: *España: A Brief History of Spain*. 2025.

Barry Hatten: *The Portuguese, A Modern History*. 2011.

Historical Novel of your choice.

Grading Policy

Component	Weight
Participation	20%
Blogs	20%
Final exam	40%
Presentations (10 points each)	20%

Grade Scale: A > 90; B > 80; C > 70; D > 60

Assignments

Final exam	35
Blogs	20
Presentations, 10 points each	20
Participation	25

Description of Graded Components

The exams are in class and closed book and notes.

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS on current political/social trends. 10 points each.

a. Pick one of the following or one of your own (with approval of professor) to teach and impress the class. These presentations should be well researched, rehearsed, and crisp. The visual presentation should also be high quality. 10-minute presentations.

1. King Juan Carlos, rise and fall (and rise again?)
2. Children of Juan Carlos
3. The Ni-Nis and the Indignados, underemployment and informal economy
4. Cultural production in Spain and Portugal since 2005
5. Fado, from classics to Madredeus to Mariza
6. Flamenco, from classics to Rosalía
7. Changing demographics, LGBTQ rights, abortion, religion, and societal cleavages
8. Los Beautiful People and Pequeño Nicolás
9. The End of ETA and nationalism in Basque Region and the Basques
10. Immigration, Emigration and demographics
11. Drug policy in Portugal.
12. Religion, including Opus Dei
13. Current President of Spain and PM of Portugal
14. The Galicians (Gallegos)
15. Gender issues
16. Chega and Vox
17. Podemos and Left Bloc
18. Soccer and identity in Portugal. Team differences.
19. Tiles, history, methods, innovation, styles Spain vs Portugal.
20. Etc.

b. Present your historical novel, including summary, information about author, and how it informs/alters/reinforces what we have learned and experienced in Spain and Portugal. 10 minutes. Well-rehearsed and crisp.

Blogs: You are required to have 6-7 short interpretive essays on cultural, social, and political themes from Spain and Portugal. You can use an on-line blog, or send to me as a journal, or have something you share with family such as <http://www.travelpod.com/>. The total should be the equivalent of 12-15 pages typed double space. In these essays, you should engage elements of Portuguese and Spanish politics, culture, or society in an ANALYTICAL way, not mere description. You can do that through

comparison, interviews, hypothesis, etc. It should be creative and well-written and display clear evidence of thinking and comparison. We will discuss more in class.

Course Policies

Screens

There will be no screens of any type allowed in class. If you need to check your phone or use your laptop, you MUST exit class. Evidence has demonstrated that screen usage in class is like second-hand smoke to those near and behind an active screen and leads to lower performance for all.

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance/participation make up 25% of our grade. You are not allowed to miss class or scheduled class activities without a compelling reason related to health or a family emergency. Fair warning: jet lag does not count. Tired from a night of partying or coughing from lack of sleep do not count. If you do miss class for any other reason, your grade will be lowered. You are required to stay with the group during activities and pay attention to the guides/instructors/etc. Asking questions to guest speakers and others also contributes to your participation grade.

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.

Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source."

If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. USING AI WITHOUT PROPER CITATION IS PLAGIARIZING. IF YOU USE AI WITHOUT PROPER CITATION, YOU WILL BE HANDLED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS. If you use AI and it is "invented or false AI garbage," your grade will be adjusted. AI is often wrong.

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- &/or Co-Requisites

None

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

All work, blogs, presentations etc. are to be written by you and not AI! You can cite AI, just as you can cite any other source. Exams are to be your own work. All in-class exams will be closed book and notes.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Late discussion questions will be penalized accordingly. Make-up exams are given for illness, approved Institute activities or religious observances.