Description

The main focus of this course is to guide students in the process of improving their writing skills in Spanish. Since the course will take place in Madrid, it prepares students to engage fully with the city, taking advantage of encounters with the culture, the inhabitants and the press as it covers the most pressing current issues. Active reading will play a crucial role since texts provide the best examples of how to write. Over the five-week period, students will produce descriptive narrative, short cultural reviews, samples of travel writing, an argumentative paper and a short research paper. “Good writing takes time, patience and desire.”

Class will meet twice a week, with classes dedicated to the “taller de escritura” for peer-review and reviews of specific grammatical structures as well as stylistic aspects. During the second part of class there will be time for the discussion and presentation of cultural content as well as visits to nearby places of interest. Since every Wednesday students will be going on a field trip, the sites and sounds of the city will to a large extent constitute the topics for subsequent written work. Students are expected to read the daily paper and watch Spanish news coverage as well as other assigned shows that cover current events.

Cultural and historical aspects covered in Spanish 122 will complement content covered in class.

Learning goals

1) to write clearly and with confidence in a sophisticated Spanish / to learn to follow a writing process

2) to have a more nuanced understanding of the history of Madrid and its people

3) to be well-versed in contemporary social and political issues in Spain

4) to present orally contents of written work in clear and concise Spanish
Requirements

Students will hand in written exercises every week after having undergone a process of creating an outline, producing a first draft, undergoing peer review and making final corrections. Students will “actively read” the assigned reading before class as well as a section of the daily paper of their choice.

Attendance and Participation

This course emphasizes active and thoughtful participation, which is reflected in grading. Attendance is mandatory, and students are required to arrive to class on time. Absence for any reason does not constitute an excuse for late delivery of assignments. Frequent tardiness and/or absences will lower the overall grade.

Basis for the final grade

- Active participation: 20%
- Drafts for the Taller de escritura: 30%
- Final drafts and papers: 50%

Week 1

Tuesday, June 28

- Introduction – Presentation of online material about Madrid / online newspapers
- Taller de escritura: short reflection paper as in-class assignment
- Travel Writing: How do we define travel writing? The traveler now and then? A look at a selection of “Cartas Marruecas” by José Cadalso and Washington Irving’s “Tales of the Alhambra”.
- Travel books and blogs about the city: the city and its neighborhoods. How to describe the city and entice the traveler: a look at current blogs about Madrid.
  - https://madridmasceradeti.wordpress.com/2015/03/19/las-8-cosas-que-debes-saber-del-barrio-de-malasana/
  - http://madridyyo.com/cultura/

Homework:
Write a descriptive piece either about a neighborhood of Madrid or a favorite painting in the Prado museum.
  - http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2014/01/02/madrid/1388685671_333665.html

Thursday, June 30

- Taller de escritura: Peer review of written work / identify common mistakes
- Introduction to the Spanish press – what do Spaniards read and how does their choice of newspaper define their political ideologies.
- “El Madrid de las tertulias” – visit Café Gijón where students will discuss in small groups the different presentation of the same event as described in “El País”, “El ABC”, “El Mundo”, “El Periódico de Catalunya” and “La Razón”.

**Homework:**
La España después del 15 M / el fenómeno nini
Watch Inside 15M: 48 horas con l@s indignad@rs [https://vimeo.com/27113108](https://vimeo.com/27113108) [http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2014/10/22/actualidad/1413974500_362946.html](http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2014/10/22/actualidad/1413974500_362946.html)
Research the press about what preoccupies the young Spaniards today. Prepare interview questions

**Week 2**

**Tuesday, July 5**

- Taller de escritura: peer-review of final draft of descriptive narrative / interview questions
- “El Madrid de los jóvenes: ayer y hoy” What do young Spaniards read? How do they get the news? Television or internet? Are they aware of past protest movements like the *movida*?
- Presentation of research results in small groups

**Homework:**
Interview young Spaniards
[http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/independence-catalonia/#.VsoN_ihtpU0](http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/independence-catalonia/#.VsoN_ihtpU0)
César Alcalá *Claves Históricas Del Independentismo Catalán*
Antonio Baños, *La rebelión catalana*

**Thursday, July 7**

- Taller de escritura: peer-review of interview results
- Visit the library of the Instituto Internacional
- Special lecture on the “Catalan Question”

**Homework:**
First draft of opinión piece – Argue for or against Catalan independence
Read selections from *Podemos. Crónica de un renacimiento* by Amador Martos García and from *Asaltar los cielos: Podemos o la política después de la crisis* by José Ignacio Torreblanca
Week 3

Tuesday, July 12

- Taller de escritura: Peer review of written work / identify common mistakes
- “La España moderna” Modernity then and now: The Second Republic then, and Podemos now
- Persuasive writing: how to convince your audience
- Reading and discussion of examples of persuasive speeches and articles from the Second Republic and contemporary Podemos speeches

Homework:
Read selections from *La primera democracia española: la Segunda República, 1931 – 1936* by Stanley G. Payne
Watch Youtube “Carne de Fieras” by Armand Guerra
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WS-qDh_1v6Q
http://elpais.com/diario/2008/08/10/revistaverano/1218385315_850215.html

Thursday, July 14

- Taller de escritura: Peer review of written work / identify common mistakes
- Visit: El Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía
- Critical analysis of the curator's construction of a “modern” Spanish identity

Homework:
Write a persuasive piece on a topic related to the Second Republic and / or the Museo Reina Sofía and / or on Podemos
Read selections from *Memoria histórica e identidad cultural de la postguerra* by José Colmeiro;

Week 4

Tuesday, July 19

- Taller de escritura: Peer review of written work / identify common mistakes
- Conservative Spain: The Franco Regime
- Preparation of interview questions (in groups) for the older generation of Spaniards

Homework:
Read selections from *Usos amorosos de la postguerra española* by Carmen Martín Gaite; *Madrid en la posguerra 1939-1946 Los años de la represión* by Pedro Montoliú.
Outline & first draft of the final research paper
Thursday, July 21
- Taller de escritura: Peer review of final drafts of written work / interview questions
- Visit Plaza de Olayide and Calle Fuencarral – students conduct interviews with the older generation of Spaniards

Homework:
Watch *Perdiendo el norte* (Spanish film) write a short review
Continue to work on the final paper

Week 5

Tuesday, July 26
- Taller de escritura: Peer review of interview results and presentations
- How to incorporate interviews into a formal paper
- Intercultural development: how has being in Madrid impacted the student?
- Students write a second short reflection paper in class.
- The crisis in Spain and the brain drain.
  http://www.eleconomista.es/economia/noticias/6827033/06/15/El-desempleo-juvenil-en-Espana-un-problema-de-oferta-y-demanda.html
- Presentation of film reviews

Homework:
Final paper that demonstrates incorporation of research

Thursday, July 28
- Taller de escritura: Peer review of written work / identify common mistakes

- Visit the Retiro Park

General resources:
Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/learning/materials
*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*