

ECON 4485-01S: ECONOMICS of Spain

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course gives students a chance to gain a better understanding of the economics, business environment and culture of Spain, in particular the cities of Madrid and Barcelona. The course will require that students complete pre-trip readings and other assignments on Spain in a set of three online modules and an individual digital presentation. The study abroad visits to Barcelona and Madrid will provide an opportunity to learn first-hand about these topics and upon their return, students will complete a set of post-trip assignments focused on the six required business visits.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Our expectations for students are that they will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of globalization issues (LG5) and a basic understanding of the economy of Spain (LG4). Students will also make a professional presentation on a topic concerning the economy of Spain (LG1).

IMPORTANT GRADING INFORMATION

Grading is calculated based on your performance on pre-trip online modules and a digital presentation, as well as trip participation and post-trip assignments.

Online Modules (3)	30%	50 points
Digital Presentation (2 parts)	20%	20 points
Trip Participation/Assignments	50%	30 points
TOTAL:	100%	100 points

The online modules include assigned readings/videos with accompanying online quizzes over the content. These modules and their associated quizzes have rolling deadlines to ensure completion before the study abroad trip.

Part One of the individual digital presentation, the proposal/plan submission, must be completed prior to the study abroad trip and Part Two, the final project which includes content from the trip, must be completed by March 28th.

During the study abroad trip, students should make detailed notes about their own economic observations, particularly during the scheduled business visits. A take home assignment based on the business visits and your overall observations of the Spanish economy and culture will be due after the trip is completed. In addition, a participation grade will be assigned. The business visits associated with the trip are mandatory and you will be expected to act in a professional manner during this and other aspects of this study abroad.

Failure to attend a required business visit in a professional manner will result in an automatic 10 point deduction to your final overall grade in the course. This policy will be strictly enforced.

IMPORTANT DATES:

1. There will be a meeting for all students participating in the Spain Study Abroad Program on Friday, January 22nd at 11:00 am, location TBD.
2. All students must complete and upload their digital presentation proposal/plan by March 1st and provide feedback to at least 2 classmates by March 4th. The projects will include content from the study abroad trip. Final projects must be uploaded by March 28th.
3. The trip to Spain: Madrid and Barcelona will take place from March 10-20, 2016.
4. Graded assignments about each business visit, a participation/conduct grade and a generalized observational report will be conducted at the end of the study abroad trip.

PRE-TRIP ONLINE MODULES:

These modules include online readings, videos and accompanying quizzes and must be completed prior to the study abroad trip. Each module contains a number of readings which must be completed before attempting the associated online quiz. Each module will count for 10% of your final overall grade in the course, for a total of 30%. The due dates and an outline of readings, videos, and other resources are listed below. These resources may be updated. The current events articles will be posted in the CourseDen site for the course.

MODULE ONE READINGS ON SPAIN (COMPLETE QUIZ BY FEBRUARY 1):

1. *Economy of Spain*, article on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Spain
2. *2015 Index of Economic Freedom-Spain*, Heritage Foundation <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/spain>
3. *Economic Survey of Spain 2014*, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <http://www.oecd.org/eco/surveys/economic-survey-spain.htm>
4. *The World Factbook-Spain*, Central Intelligence Agency <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sp.html>
5. *U.S.-Spain Relations---A Conversation between President Obama and King Felipe VI of Spain* <http://www.c-span.org/video/?328109-3/president-obama-meeting-king-felipe-vi-spain>
6. Current events articles on Spain:
 - a. *Spain's Job Growth Buoyed by Short-Term Contracts*, WSJ, Dec. 2, 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/spanish-jobless-claims-down-as-economy-recovers-1449046457>
 - b. *Spain's Economy Is Expanding, But Most New Jobs Are Temporary*, NPR, December 18, 2015 (article and audio file). <http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/12/18/459854096/spains-economy-is-expanding-but-most-new-jobs-are-temporary>
 - c. *What Spain Must Do to Improve Growth Quality*, The Corner, Dec. 28, 2015. <http://thecorner.eu/spain-economy/what-spain-must-do-to-improve-growth-quality/50409/>
 - d. *Spain's Missed Election Opportunity*, WSJ, Dec. 23, 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/spains-missed-election-opportunity-1450896269>
 - e. *7 Things Americans Can Learn from Life in Spain*, Huffington Post, Dec. 26, 2015. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/things-americans-can-learn-from-spain_5679729be4b0b958f657fb28

MODULE TWO READINGS ON EUROPEAN UNION (COMPLETE QUIZ BY FEBRUARY 15):

1. *European Union*, article on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union
2. *How the EU Works: A Video Guide*, BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-23488006>
3. *The European Union: A Guide for Americans*, Delegation of the EU to the US <http://www.euintheus.org/resources-learning/eu-guide-for-americans/>
4. *European Democracy without Borders (Ted Talk)*. https://www.ted.com/talks/george_papandreou_imagine_a_european_democracy_without_borders
5. Current Events articles on Spain's role in the European Union. These will be posted on the Courseden site in the course (and emailed to students in the class).

MODULE THREE READINGS ON BARCELONA/MADRID (COMPLETE QUIZ BY MARCH 4):

1. *Madrid*, article on Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid>
2. *Barcelona* article on Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcelona>
3. *Madrid, Rick Steves' Video* <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/the-majesty-of-madrid>
4. *Barcelona, Rick Steves' Video* <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/barcelona-and-catalunya>
5. Current Events articles on Barcelona and Madrid. These will be posted on the CourseDen site in the course (and emailed to students in the class).

DIGITAL PRESENTATION:

Each student in the class will make a digital presentation on a topic related to Spain, Barcelona or Madrid. The topic must be pre-approved by the instructor of this course and will be graded in two parts:

1. Part One: post your presentation proposal in CourseDen by March 1st – it can be any topic about Spain, Barcelona or Madrid and should focus on our experiences in the economy of Spain and a discussion board will be set up for you. I prefer presentation proposals that leverage the power of social media and focus on personal finance topics in economics, but will consider all proposals. Each student should provide constructive, well developed feedback to TWO other proposals in the CourseDen discussion board by March 4th. Your post should include:
 - a. Title of the presentation
 - b. Names of all presenters
 - c. Project Description – what you are going to research/study, key concepts/themes
 - d. Project Plan – how you will present it, utilize social media, etc.
2. Part Two: develop your digital presentation on the trip, include pictures and observations, social media posts, etc. as part of your presentation. A digital presentation can be in the form of a well-designed Prezi, movie or highly developed narrated slide show. You may explore other digital presentation options if you choose. Your digital presentation must be posted in CourseDen in the final project discussion board by March 28th. The presentation should be concise, last no longer than 5 minutes and include at least 5 economic concepts or themes. Grading will be based on both the content and quality of the research and the accompanying presentation.
3. If you prefer, you may work in groups of no more than two students under the condition that these are NOT the same group as your marketing class group. In addition, your project cannot contain content from your marketing class.

TRIP ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT REQUIREMENT:

Unless a specific exception is made, students are expected to participate in all on-campus and all required components of the program in Barcelona and Madrid. Students will be treated as professionals and are expected to dress and act accordingly. This includes respecting your fellow students and our hosts in Spain.

For the duration of the trip, we expect that you will not put yourself in any situation which may cause problems for yourself, your classmates, our host, the University or any of the accompanying University faculty/staff. Note that failure to attend a required business visit in a professional manner will result in an automatic 10 point deduction to your final overall grade in the course. This policy will be strictly enforced.

POST-TRIP ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student should keep a journal of notes about cultural and economic observations, the required business visits and other activities. These notes will help you answer the response questions associated with each business visit, provide evidence for active participation and help you refine your observational report. These assignments will open upon our return from Spain and must be completed by the deadline stated in CourseDen.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Cheating on any exam will result in a zero on the test, an F in the course and will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Cheating on any assignment, exercise or quiz will result in a zero on the assignment or exercise, the lowering of the student's final grade in the course by

one letter grade, and will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Examples of cheating include turning in work that is not your own or having another student complete an online quiz for you. Students not familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty should refer to the Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog: <http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm>

COMMON LANGUAGE FOR COURSE SYLLABI:

Students, please carefully review the following information which contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. These statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change; you should review the information each semester.

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

COURSEDEN (D2L) HELPFUL INFORMATION:

We will use CourseDen extensively for this course. Please make sure you are comfortable with UWG's course management system and seek help before assignment or quiz deadlines.

Direct Link: <http://westga.view.usg.edu>

Problems? E-mail: online@westga.edu or call: 678-839-6248 (M-F 8am-5pm)

24 Hour Helpline: 1-855-772-0423 (toll free) or 800-892-4315 (hearing impaired)

Online Help: <http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu>

Tutorials and News: <http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php>

For help logging in to CourseDen via UWG ID (the universal username/password system), contact the ITS helpdesk: <https://selfservice.westga.edu/> or call 678-839-6587

COLLABORATE/CONNECT WITH YOUR CLASS!



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[#UWGTakesSpain](https://twitter.com/cubegr1)

[instagram.com/cubegr1](https://www.instagram.com/cubegr1) UWGTakesSpain

*"To move, to breathe, to fly, to float, to gain all while you give,
To roam the roads of lands remote, to travel is to live." ~Hans Christian Andersen*