

Spanish for Policy and Legal Studies: Intermediate High

SPAN 2503 (3 credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Spain: Policy, Law, and Regional Autonomy in Europe

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Description

This course aims to develop sophisticated skills in speaking, understanding, reading and writing Spanish for policy and legal purposes, through traditional classroom instruction and field-based activities. While emphasis is placed primarily upon oral comprehension and developing conversational competencies (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are also highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. The homestay experience helps the student hone their proficiency in conversational Spanish and grasp cultural practices in the Spanish world. Vocabulary about policy and legal context is built into the course and introduced through audiovisual materials and experiential activities accompanying the textbook that has been specifically prepared for SIT program students. This high intermediate level of Spanish gives the students a fairly in-depth background into everyday life, enabling the grasp of critical language skills necessary for performing a variety of activities. The objective of the course is to review and expand on topics including communicating with Spanish-speaking politicians and law-makers, building the student's practical legal terminology in Spanish, and enhancing the student's oral and written communication skills in Spanish.

The course is built on the knowledge students already have.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Spain.

Learning Outcomes

The course comprises 45 hours of instruction and field visits. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Use vocabulary in connection with situations in a legal context;
- Demonstrate understanding of the content of selected policy or legal reports;
- Dialogue about the main characteristics of regional autonomy in the Basque Country;

- Summarize main arguments of supporters of regional autonomy and those of pro-independence movement in Catalonia;
- Describe political institutions in the Basque country;
- Conduct an interview in Spanish;
- Describe a Spanish public or religious event or ceremony;
- Summarize a few outcomes of a field visit or educational excursion;
- Analyze an article about a policy decision from a Spanish daily newspaper;
- Talk about their Independent Study Project;
- Understand weather reports and news items on Spanish TV.

Language of Instruction

This course is conducted entirely in Spanish.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions, and to frame their daily experiences outside of class.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Methods

The teaching methodology implemented during this course is based on experiential learning and focuses on developing the student's Spanish communication skills in a policy or legal context through two main aspects:

1. Interaction with Spanish speaking people in in policy and legal environment and everyday situations, during field activities.
2. Participation in academic classroom activities through individual and group presentations, participation in panel discussions and role-play activities.

Required Readings:

Bregstein, B. (2012). *Advanced Spanish: step by step*. McGraw Hill.

Spanish Legal Conversation. Phrases and Key Words for Basic Communication in the Legal Industry. (2009).

Excerpts from several texts will be used in class and will be available via a course packet and/or on the course's Moodle page.

Online Legal Resources:

<http://www.wordreference.com/esen/>

<http://www.spanishdict.com/translate/legal>

Recommended Readings:

Gili y Gaya, S. (1998). *Curso Superior de Sintaxis Española* (15 ed.). Barcelona: Bibliografía.

Alarcos Llorach, E. (1994). *Gramática de la lengua española*. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.

- Bosque, I. y Demonte, V. (1999). *Gramática descriptiva de la lengua española*. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.
- Margarita, P. B. (1988). *Ser, estar y verbos de cambio*. Madrid: Arcolibros S.A.
- RAE. (2005). *Diccionario Panhispánico de Dudas*. Espasa-Calpe, Madrid.
- Arnal, C., and Ruiz de Garibay, A. (1996). *Escribe en Español*. SGEL: Madrid.
- Gilman, A.G., and Benito-Vessels, C. (1997). *Horizontes: Cultura y Literatura*. Heinle & Heinle: Boston.
- Castro, F. (2000). *Uso de la gramática española. Nivel Intermedio*. Madrid, Edelsa.
- Pinilla, R., & Muñoz, R. A. (2005). *¡ Bien dicho!: ejercicios de expresión oral*. Sociedad general española de librería, Madrid.
- Rodríguez Rodríguez, M. (2003). *Escucha y aprende: Ejercicios de comprensión auditiva*. SGEL; Madrid.
- García, C. M., Moreno, V., & de Navarrete, P. Z. S. (2002). *Advance: curso de español: nivel básico-intermedio*. Sociedad General Española de Librería.
- Lengua Española: www.rae.es

Content

Communicative Pragmatic

- Assertive speaking (affirm, announce, assent, etc.);
- Compromise speaking (express will, intention, etc.);
- Expressive speaking (express admiration, surprise, etc.);
- Fact speaking (greet and say goodbye, introduce someone, invite, etc.);
- Directive speaking (give and receive instructions, give and receive consent, etc.).

Grammatical

- Simple sentences;
- Composed sentences;
- Use of conjunctions and relative pronouns;
- Syntactic order;
- Grammatical morphemes;
- Principle of subordination, subjunctive mode;
- Prepositional regime;
- Pronunciation;
- Orthography;
- Comprehensive speaking in present, past and future;
- Use basic structures of present and past subjunctive and imperative;
- Use whole sentences and extensive paragraphs with a degree of fluidity;
- Narration, description and argumentation.

Lexis - semantic

- Specific vocabulary in the context of law and policy;
- Reading and understanding simple policy and legal reports;
- Discussion of regional autonomy in Bilbao and Spain;
- Basic arguments of pro-independence movements;
- Basic arguments of pro-regional autonomy;
- The future of the EU;
- Impact of Brexit on independence movements in Europe;

- Media in Spain;
- Soccer and national identity;
- Free time and leisure;
- Transportation;
- Social and human relations;
- Health;
- Education;
- Commercial activities;

Intercultural

- Behavioral and social interaction;
- Accepted behavior in social groups (national and subnational);
- Religious and moral beliefs;
- Behavioral conventions.
- Stereotypes and national identity: Notions of national identities in Spain and Basque country;
- History: periods and construction of nation and its identities;
- Geography: meaningful geographical factors about the country;
- Social Identity and social groups: different social groups with a diverse social base, different national identities, such as class, regional identities or ethnic minorities.
- Social and political Institutions: institutions that work and give a frame to life in the country such as health assistance, local governments, law and order, educational systems, etc.;
- Socialization: socialization institutions such as families, work or school, social or religious ceremonies, etc.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Evaluation:

Diagnostic evaluation: This evaluation has two parts, one oral and other written, and includes the development of the student's language skills and how this is shown in formal and informal contexts;

Formative evaluation: During the semester there will be different instances of support and self-evaluation which will enable assessment of the concretion of initial objectives;

Last evaluation: The evaluation criteria will be directly linked to the stated outcomes.

Evaluation also includes the student's:

- Positive attitude, and participation in class activities;
- Initiative in the use of Spanish, use and acquisition of new vocabulary and use of Spanish in and out of the class room.

During the program students will have to show knowledge and skills acquired, through the following assignments:

Description of Assignments:

Written Exam

Written exam on grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production; short answer and open-ended questions; use of policy and legal vocabulary.

Oral Exam

Ten minute oral exam with your teacher and the academic director, assessing fluency, use of grammar and vocabulary, corresponding to the content of the course.

Oral Presentation

The oral presentation will be assessed by the use of vocabulary and grammar corresponding to language level, capacity to speak without reading notes.

Homework and Participation

Students will be evaluated on homework assignments, overall oral participation and motivation.

Assessment:

Written exam	40%
Oral exam	30%
Oral presentation	10%
Homework	10%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

Grading Criteria:

All grades assigned will take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of not only technical correctness, but also in structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logic of writing, and consistency.

In terms of Class Participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the student's participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your Reading completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the professor.

- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.