The purpose of this seminar is to maximize your experience abroad by facilitating your immersion in the Spanish culture and by developing your cross-cultural competence. We will meet one hour per week and you will receive one unit P/NP. In order to reach that goal we will combine activities/tasks inside the classroom and outside the classroom:

A- Activities/tasks inside the classroom:
   a. Analyze and debate Spanish cultural identity
   b. Help you deal with the cultural shock (Cultural Adjustment Curve)
   c. Debate positive and negative experiences in our group and learn from our own experiences
   d. Interact with Spaniards
   e. Integrate your experience in your professional plans (job or graduate school)
   f. Facilitate your adaptation to Spanish culture:
      i. how to adjust to a new environment (host family, apartment, school)
      ii. how to relate to Spaniards,
      iii. how to understand the variations in communication styles
      iv. how to develop an intercultural sensitivity
      v. how to respond to stereotypes,
      vi. how to manage safety (physically and emotionally). Local laws, medical services, emergencies

B- Activities/tasks outside the classroom
   a. Conversation exchanges with Spaniards
   b. Interviews to Spaniards
   c. Navigate and discover Madrid
   d. Attend events in Madrid (soccer game, bullfight –optional-, fiestas de Madrid, exhibitions, visits to different neighborhoods, tapas, dinners...)
   e. Develop activities aiming to connect you with Madrid and the “madrileños”
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

APRIL
5  The meaning of culture.
   Adjusting to a new environment (host family, apartment, school)
   Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

12  Managing safety in a foreign country (physically and emotionally).
    Risks and benefits of leaving abroad. Understanding local laws,
    medical services, emergencies, police...
    Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

19  Analyzing cultural shock (Cultural Adjustment Curve) How to manage
    the ups and downs of our experience?
    Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

26  Developing intercultural sensitivity. How do we go from respecting to
    understanding, accepting and embracing Spanish culture? How do we
    read other cultures within the context of Spanish culture?
    Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

MAY
3   Understanding Madrid and the “madrileños”. Urban map:
    entertainment, social structure, cultural spaces, business, immigrant’s
    areas

10  Responding to stereotypes. What do Spaniards expect from
    Americans? What do Americans expect from Spaniards?
    Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

17  Analyzing different communication styles in Spain. Personal space,
    social context, formal situations, public employees, tone
    Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

24  Integrating our experience abroad into our career or into our
    graduate school interests. How do we capitalize our experience
    abroad in our professional or academic interests? What does it mean
    being a global citizen?
Study case: Positive and negative experiences in our group

JUNE

31 Reflection day. Debating our initial goals for the seminar. Did we achieve our goals?
Where did we succeed and/or fail?