

Spanish Food and Culture (SPA 141S) Syllabus

UC Davis Quarter Abroad – Madrid, Spain. Spring 2020

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Course goals

- Discover, analyze and understand Spanish Culture through food and drink
- Understand the historical, religious, political, sociological and regional foundations of Spanish Culture
- Experience and reflect on key elements of Spanish Food and Culture

Learning Outcomes

- Students will live and understand Spanish Culture through food and drink
- Students will acquire a holistic understanding of present day Spain
- Students will be able to participate in meaningful discussions about Spanish food, culture and politics
- Students will develop their critical thinking
- Students will be able to identify similarities and differences between the Spanish and the American food and drink cultures

Course Format

Weekly class meetings will consist of a lecture on the first day and practical activities and experiential learning on the second day. Select readings and viewings will be assigned in preparation for the lectures and activities.

There will be a multiday field trip to Northern Spain (Ribera del Duero, Burgos, Bilbao, San Sebastian) with visits of food and beverage factories, historical landmarks and museums.

Grades will be based on a midterm (25%), a term paper (25%), a journal of key learnings and reflections (25%) and participation (25%)

Select readings from:

John Hooper. The New Spaniards, 2nd Edition. Penguin Books, London. 2006.

Matt Goulding. Grape, Olive, Pig. Deep Travels through Spain's Food Culture. Harper Collins Publishers, New York. 2016.

Harold McGee. On Food and Cooking. The Science and Lore of the Kitchen. Scribner, New York. 2004.

The course is taught in English

Lecture Topics

1. How Spanish Culture was shaped through its history
 - a. Religion
 - b. Politics
2. The regions of Spain
3. The Mediterranean Diet and its Spanish version
 - a. Principles of nutrition
 - b. The ingredients of the (Spanish) Mediterranean Diet
4. The evolution of the Spanish market
5. Introductory food and beverage science – chemistry, microbiology, processing, sensory & consumer
6. The culture of tapas and pinchos
7. Spanish beer, wine and spirits
8. Iconic dishes of Spain – paella, tortilla de patata, gazpacho...
9. The culinary evolution of Spain – from Don Quixote to Ferran Adria
10. Other fundamentals of Spanish Culture – futbol, toros and flamenco

Activities, Field Trips, Ethnography and Experiential Learning

- Visit of Madrid museums (Sorolla and/or Tyssen)
- Visit of the Mercado de San Miguel in Madrid and tapas & pinchos tasting
- Corrida de Toros – Plaza de las Ventas, Feria de San Isidro
- Flamenco Show – Casa Patas or Corral de la Moreria
- Visit of the Real Madrid Museum at the Santiago Bernabeu or Real Madrid practice in Valdebebas
- Spanish wine tasting
- Taller de cocina (cooking class)

3-day field trip to the Basque Country (bus & hotel/residencia) – *tentative schedule*

- Day 1
 - Aranda & Penafiel – visit Leche Pascual, Legaris and/or Peñafiel Castle
 - Burgos – visit San Miguel
 - Overnight stay in Burgos
- Day 2
 - San Sebastian exploration – day at the beach and evening tapas
 - Overnight stay in San Sebastian
- Day 3
 - Visit Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao
 - Return to Madrid

Attendance Policy

ACCENT and UC Davis require regular and punctual class attendance. Thus, students are expected to prepare for and attend class, and in case of anticipated or unanticipated absences, to inform the instructor promptly. Students are allowed a total of two absences during the program. Each absence beyond the limit will result in a deduction of 2 percent points from the student's raw total. Students will be allowed to complete assignments or examinations in case of an excused absence due to illness.

Academic Code of Conduct

Students are expected to abide by the UC Davis Academic Code of Conduct during their participation in this class and other classes in the UC Davis Spanish Language and Culture Quarter Abroad Program.

Students with Disabilities

UC Davis and ACCENT are committed to facilitating welcoming and reasonably accessible programs. Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should present appropriate documentation from the UC Davis Student Disability Center, and should meet with the Quarter Abroad Faculty Leader and ACCENT Madrid Director upon arrival to confirm the approved accommodations. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved university procedure. Disability status is confidential and should always be discussed in private. For more information, please consult the Official website for UC Davis Student Disability Center at <https://sdc.ucdavis.edu>.