Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

1st Term 2026-2027

Course Code & Title:	**SPAN1101 - SPANISH CIVILIZATION AND ITS LANGUAGES I**
Language of Instruction: English	Units: 3

Course Description
This course offers a broad interdisciplinary introduction to the Hispanic civilization. It surveys the realities of Hispanic cultures and societies through the examination of their evolution, geography, languages, economy, social configurations, artistic ways of expressions, gastronomy, forms of leisure and celebrations. It attempts that students foster a general understanding of the connections and the differences of cultures and societies geographically wide apart. The course is taught in one interactive manner as to ensure students engage in classroom discussions and participate in projects related to Hispanic issues of interest to them. ***No prior knowledge is required**. It is recommended that this course may be taken simultaneously with Spanish language courses.*

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should: • demonstrate understanding of the key features of the Hispanic cultures. • be familiar with the main Hispanic cultural referents. • be able to interpret more critically materials, subjects, and real-world situations related to the Hispanic world. • increase their cross-cultural awareness of Spanish speaking societies. • meaningfully assess differences between individuals and groups of people without resorting to stereotypes.

Course Syllabus	
Topics	**Descriptions**
TOPIC 1	**THE ECLECTIC NOTION OF HISPANIC CIVILIZATION**
	♦ Hispanic cultures in the World and their international projection ♦ Multicultural history ♦ Hispanic-Chinese Relations
TOPIC 2	**THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**
	♦ Landscapes in Spain ♦ Latin America and the Caribbean sceneries ♦ Nature sights in Equatorial Guinea
TOPIC 3	**THE SPANISH LANGUAGE**
	♦ Linguistic evolution and diversity ♦ Languages in contact ♦ Spanglish
TOPIC 4	**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, MIGRATION AND HISPANIC MULTINATIONALS**
	♦ Economic sectors ♦ Transnational migration ♦ Hispanic multinational

TOPIC 5	**UNIQUE ARTISTIC WAYS OF EXPRESSION**
	♦ Hispanic masterworks literature and Nobel prize writers ♦ Icon artists (Altamira prehistoric cave paintings, Picasso, Dali, Miró, Velázquez, Frida Kahlo, etc.) ♦ UNESCO World Heritage sites and popular architecture in Spanish-speaking countries.
TOPIC 6	**GASTRONOMY**
	♦ Food and popular dishes ♦ "New World" food ♦ World-renowned Spanish chefs
TOPIC 7	**FORMS OF LEISURE**
	♦ Music and dances ♦ The media and cinema ♦ Sports ♦ The bullfighting debates
TOPIC 8	**CELEBRATIONS**
	♦ Sun festivals ♦ Harvest festivals ♦ December celebrations ♦ Fertility festivals

Course Components							
Teaching Mode							
On-site face-to-face interactive classwork: 100%							
Interactive classwork[1] (hr) in / out class		**Extra-curricular activities (hr) in / out class**		**Web-based Teaching (hr) in / out class**		**Homework /Self- study (hr) in / out class**	
3	0.5		1.5		1.5		3
M	M		O		M		M

M = Mandatory / **O** = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role playing and student-teacher interaction.

Assessment Type		
Task nature	*Description*	*Percentage*
Participation in class and homework	Active participation in class activities with regular breakout groups, self-study quizzes, and structured class debates. Continuous assessment.	15%
Group presentation	○ 2-3 students per group. ○ ***Timing***: 10–15 mins. ○ ***Topic:*** One specific topic related to Hispanic Civilization, including a comparative section on differences between Hispanic and Chinese cultures. ○ ***Structure:*** The presentation must include a thesis statement, an introduction, a clearly organized argument/ commentary, a conclusion, and a reference list.	25%
Final quiz	Short answer questions and short essay questions (**Duration**: *2 hours*) *(**Closed book test**)*	60%

Notes	- **Students must arrive on time. Your success in learning will greatly depend on your attendance.** - **Students are required to attend at least 75% of the class.** Treat 75% attendance as the minimum, not the maximum. - **Should a student miss more than 25% of the class, he/she will automatically fail the course.** - **If a student is unable to attend, he/she should review the content and homework that are missed and make them up him/her-self.** - **If a student misses a lesson, he/she must inform his/her teacher and provide an official documentation to support his/her absence (for example, a medical certificate) to ensure that it does not affect his/her compulsory attendance record.** - **For missed tests, make-up tests will not be arranged unless the student can provide an official supporting document, such as a medical certificate.**

Course Engagement and Assessment Overview
✓ ***Interactive classwork:*** Participation will be positively graded. Students are expected to engage actively in class by commenting and asking for more information about the proposed topics. Additionally, they should contribute to class discussions using resources from the Internet or traditional library materials. ✓ ***Extracurricular activities*****:** Students are welcome to join in any cultural activities related to the Hispanic World held in Hong Kong. Activities will be announced in advance. ✓ ***Web-based teaching****:* Course materials will be uploaded to the Blackboard Learning System course site. ✓ ***Group presentation*****:** Students will work on a group presentation focusing on one specific topic that highlights differences between Hispanic and Chinese cultures.

Asssessment rubrics	
General Grade Descriptors	Descriptors
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, or high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Learning Resources

Course Materials

IT Resources

1. ***CUHK Blackboard eLearning System*** https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk
2. **Web links:**

https://www.spain.info/en/art-culture/
https://artsandculture.google.com/story/spanish-cultural-sites-you-can-explore-from-home/BQUxhFxSZvHUag?hl=en
https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/spain/m06mkj?hl=en
https://artsandculture.google.com/project/uslatinocultures
https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/race-ethnicity/racial-ethnic-groups/hispanics-latinos/
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook55.asp
https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/espana/historyandculture/culture/Paginas/index.aspx
http://www.red2000.com/spain/culture-index.html

Recommended readings & Library Resources

Afinoguénova, E. & Martí-Olivella, J. (Eds.) (2008). *Spain is (Still) Different: Tourism and Discourse in Spanish Identity*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Inc.

Balfour, S. & Quiroga, A. (2007). *The reinvention of Spain: nation and identity since democracy*. NY: OUP.

Beltrán, C. (2010). *The trouble with unity: Latino politics and the creation of identity*. NY: OUP.

Copeland, J.G., Kite, R. & Sandstedt, L.A. (2001). *Civilización y cultura: Intermediate Spanish.* Fort Worth, Tex.: Harcourt Brace College Publishers (7th edition).

Dawson, A.S. (2011). *Latin America since independence: a history with primary sources*. NY: Routledge.

DeGuzmán, M. (2005). *Spain's long shadow the black legend, off-whiteness, and Anglo-American empire* [electronic resource]: Minneapolis, Minn. University of Minnesota Press.

Gies, D.T. (Ed.) (1999). *The Cambridge companion to modern Spanish culture*. NY: CUP.

Gómez, L.E. (2020). *Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism.* New York. The New Press.

Grabowski, J.F. (2000). Spain. San Diego, CA : Lucent Books.

Jordan, B. (2002). *Spanish culture and society: the essential glossary*. NY: OUP.

Jordan, B. & Morgan-Tamosunas, R. (Eds.) (2000). *Contemporary Spanish culture studies*. London: OUP.

Labanyi, J. (2010). *Spanish literature: a very short introduction*. Oxford: OUP.

Mahoney, J. (2010). *Colonialism and postcolonial development: Spanish America in comparative perspective*. NY: CUP.

Martín-Estudillo, L. & Ampuero, R. (Eds.) (2008). *Post-authoritarian cultures: Spain and Latin America's Southern Cone*. Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press.

McGuirk, B. & Millington, M.I. (Eds.) (1995). *Inequality and difference in Hispanic and Latin American cultures*. Lewiston: E. Mellen Press.

Moya, J.C. (Ed.) (2011). *The Oxford handbook of Latin American history*. NY: OUP.

Payne, S.G. (2011). *Spain: a unique history.* Madison, Wis.University of Wisconsin Press.

Pérez-Sánchez, G. (2007) *Queer transitions in contemporary Spanish culture: from Franco to la movida*. Pérez-Sánchez, G NY: State University of New York Press.

Rodgers, E. & Rodgers, V. (Ed.) (1999). *Encyclopedia of contemporary Spanish culture.* NY: Routledge.

Smith, P.J. (2003). *Contemporary Spanish culture: TV, fashion, art and film*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Stanton, E. F. (2002*). Culture and customs of Spain*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press.

Townson, N. (2023). *The Penguin history of modern Spain 1898 to the present*. London. Allen Lane Publishers.

Course Schedule *(Subject to changes)*:

Week	*Date*	*No Class Days*	*Assignments*	*Content*
Week 1	7- 12 Sep	**7 September (Monday)** - Inauguration Ceremony for Undergraduates **[All classes suspended in the morning until 1:30 p.m.]**		**Topic 1**
Week 2	14 – 19 Sep			**Topics 1-2**
Week 3	21- 26 Sep	**26 September (Saturday)** - The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival		**Topic 3**
Week 4	28 Sep – 3 Oct	**1 October (Thursday)**- National Day		**Topics 3-4**
Week 5	5-10 Oct			**Topics 3-4**
Week 6	12-17 Oct	**17 October (Saturday)** - Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions **[All classes suspended]**	***1st presentation session***	**Topic 4-5**
Week 7	19-24 Oct	**19 October (Monday)** - The day following Chung Yeung Festival	***2nd presentation session***	**Topic 5**
Week 8	26 Oct-31 Oct		***3rd presentation session***	**Topic 5**
Week 9	2-7 Nov		***4th presentation session***	**Topics 5-6**
Week 10	9-13 Nov	**12 November (Thursday)**-Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees **[All classes suspended]**	***5th presentation session***	**Topics 6-7**
Week 11	16-21Nov		***6th presentation session***	**Topics 7-8**
Week 12	23-28 Nov			**Topic 8 & Review**
Week 13	30 Nov- 5 Dec		**Final test (Closed book)**	**Test**

Class sections and teachers' contact details:

Class	Time	Classroom	No. of weeks	Teacher	Email
SPAN 1101	Tuesday 14.30-17.15	YIA 403	13	DR Leticia VICENTE-RASOAMALALA	lvicente@cuhk.edu.hk

For further information and inquiries you are welcome to contact:

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
Dr. Leticia VICENTE-RASOAMALALA (*Course Coordinator*)	3943 1678	lvicente@cuhk.edu.hk	**Office Hours:** *Tuesday*: 1.20-2.20 pm *Rm G27, KKL Building* *or **via Zoom*** *gladly by appointment*

General Office	39439836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, KKL Building **Office Hours:** *Monday to Thursday*: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm *Friday*: 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:45pm

Details of Course Website
CUHK Blackboard: https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk

Feedback for Evaluation
Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course at any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedbacks will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-ended questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedbacks in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

- Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

All use of AI tools is prohibited

In any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards the final course grades (or used for evaluating attainment of the desired learning outcomes), students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT).

Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty.

In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

For more information about our Spanish programme, please join us on Instagram:

@ELECAFELITO