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Study Abroad Program in Spain, Fall 2022, *International College of Seville*

## **HISTORY/WOMEN'S STUDIES 492: Women and Revolution: Exploring the History of Women in Spanish Politics & Society**



### **Course Description:**

As a course offering for our Study Abroad Program in Spain, this course will have a unique focus, exploring the lives of historical, religious, and prominent women in Spanish society throughout its history, and by extension, women whose lives were shaped and transformed by Spanish culture either through colonization or global politics. From the late 15<sup>th</sup> century to its peak in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, during the *Siglo de Oro*, or Golden Age, Spain was considered the first global empire with colonial territories that spanned the world from Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. The process of *Hispanization* dramatically changed indigenous societies in political, economic and cultural realms. With the end of the Spanish Empire in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Spain looked inward, as it recovered from the humiliating loss of its extensive colonies, and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Spain faced a bloody civil war, the legacy and memory of which divides Spaniards even today.

Women have played crucial roles in Spanish history, although their involvement remains marginalized in standard historical accounts. In this course, we will get to know the women who have shaped Spanish society at various points in its history, but also the women whose lives were shaped and moved by their connections to Spain. During the *Reconquista*, we will not only get to know the Catholic Queen Isabella, but those who inspired this holy war, such as Santa Justa and Rufina, considered as the patron saints of Seville, who served as symbols of sacrifice for Christian Spain. From the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, gender roles and the lives of women—both in the Iberian Peninsula and in the colonies—were radically transformed by Spanish colonization. During the height of the Spanish Empire, women in Iberia and the colonies played decisive roles in establishing, maintaining and eventually opposing the empire. We will explore the complicated legacy of La Malinche and the *soldaderas* of the Mexican Revolution to trace negotiation and eventual resistance to the Spanish Empire. And during the Spanish Civil War (1936-

1939), we will get to know the iconic *La Pasionara* (Dolores Ibarruri) and countless other women who opposed and were victimized by Franco's fascist regime, as well as fellow travelers like Martha Gellhorn, and volunteers like Salaria Kee, who joined the Republican cause against Franco.

While based in the History Department, this course is cross-listed with the Women's Studies Department. Thus, this course will be interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary, incorporating various perspectives and methodologies. Seville has been at the forefront of Spanish history—from the *Reconquista* to the *Siglo de Oro* to the Spanish Civil War—and while women have remained “invisible” in historical accounts, they were always there, working and shaping their own personal lives and the political life of their societies. Exploring the role of women in Seville will be both exciting and valuable. Hopefully, this course will not only make visible the role of women in Spanish history, but also lead us to a deeper understanding of how women struggled, negotiated, thrived and shaped their own destinies and that of their societies.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Identify crucial theoretical issues and historical developments on the questions of women's activism, mobilization and participation in movements and revolutions in various periods in Spain's history. They will, therefore, acquire a more comprehensive historical knowledge of Spain's past and should be able to apply this knowledge to understanding current issues and events in contemporary Spain.
2. Articulate past and current critical issues and debates about the history and legacy of women, gender, political activism and revolutionary mobilization in Spain and in other contexts. They will, therefore, be able to empathize with the current challenges of women in contemporary Spain and elsewhere.
3. Demonstrate skills in critical thinking and historical interpretation through close readings of both primary and secondary texts. They will also be able to provide summaries and analysis of materials and therefore demonstrate their writing and oral skills through essays, presentations and other assignments.
4. Exhibit some basic familiarity with Spanish language and culture through conversational exercises and journal entries about daily experiences in Spain. They will, therefore, immerse themselves in the rich culture and history of Seville and Spain.
5. By living and studying in Seville, students have the unique opportunity to see how “history comes alive” and gain a deeper appreciation of how history shapes contemporary societies.

### **Requirements:**

Students from diverse backgrounds are welcome and no previous knowledge of the subject is required. The purpose of the Study Abroad is to familiarize and open ourselves to the surroundings and history of Seville and modern Spain. Requirements in this course are therefore flexible and grades for the course will be centered around essays reflecting on the assigned material, as well as a journal of the student's weekly reflections on the history of and their experiences in Spain.

Grades in the class will be based on the following:

1. Four Response Essays (2-5 pages) 40 points  
--Choose 5 out of the 6 required readings

2. Oral Presentation of Research Project	10 points
3. Final Write-Up of Presentation (5-8 pages)	20 points
4. Weekly Journal in Spain	10 points
5. Compulsory Attendance at Field Trips	10 points
6. Attendance, participation and discussion	10 points
TOTAL:	100 points

**Note on Cultural Visits/Field Trips:**

As part of the Study Abroad program, you are required to go to ALL of the Field Trips organized by ICS. Our trips to Cordoba, Granada, Cadiz and Morocco are relevant to our understanding of Spanish history, thus, before and after each trip, we will reflect on the rise and legacy of Spain as an empire.

ICS has also organized 5 cultural visits around the city of Seville for the students of the Study Abroad Program. For this class, you are required to go to 4 out of the 5 visits, particularly the Alcazar, Plaza de Espana and the Catedral, as these sites will be relevant to our class. You can choose the fourth one from the list.

All students must write a 1-page reflection/essay for each trip and site visited. Your attendance to these trips/visits and your reflection essays will be part of your overall grade.

**Final Research Project and Presentation:**

There will be no Exams in this course, but the most important requirement is the research project—both the oral presentation and written paper. It is very important that you choose a topic that you’re interested in. Please see details at the end of the syllabus.

**Writing Feedback:**

As a writing intensive course, the instructor will regularly put comments on the student’s papers and meet with students to give them feedback on their writing. At any time, students can approach the instructor for advice on how to improve their writing. For the final paper, the student will first give the instructor a rough draft. The instructor will give comments on the draft and meet with students for feedback. Students will then submit a final draft that incorporates the instructors’ feedback.

**Required/Optional Readings:**

All the required readings and resources for the class are listed in the class syllabus, and they will all be posted on the class Lulima website. Required and optional books/articles/readings are all posted on Lulima. But you can also purchase them, if you wish to.

Students must read all required readings listed in the syllabus. Some optional readings—either short essays or chapters in books—will also be posted on Lulima.

## Readings:

Selected chapters from the following:

- Bieder, Maryellen, and Roberta Johnson. *Spanish Women Writers and Spain's Civil War*. London: Routledge, 2017.
- Downey, Kirstin. *Isabella: The Warrior Queen*. Westminster: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2014.
- Goldman, Emma, and David Porter. *Vision on Fire: Emma Goldman on the Spanish Revolution*. 2nd ed. Edinburgh: AK Press, 2006.
- Ibárruri, Dolores. *They Shall Not Pass; the Autobiography of La Pasionaria*. [1st ed. New York: International Publishers, 1966.
- Flynn, Angela. *Falangist and National Catholic Women in the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)*. 1st ed. Vol. 1. Routledge, 2020.
- Lavrín, Asunción. *Latin American Women : Historical Perspectives* . Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 1978.
- Linhard, Tabea Alexa. *Fearless Women in the Mexican Revolution and the Spanish Civil War*. Columbia, Mo: University of Missouri Press, 2005.
- Loria, Laura, and Heather Moore Niver. *La Malinche*. Chicago, IL: Rosen Publishing Group, 2017.
- Mangini González, Shirley. *Memories of Resistance: Women's Voices from the Spanish Civil War*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.
- Myers, Kathleen Ann. *Neither Saints Nor Sinners: Writing the Lives of Women in Spanish America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Owens, Sarah E. *Nuns Navigating the Spanish Empire*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2017.
- Poska, Allyson M. *Gendered Crossings: Women and Migration in the Spanish Empire*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2016.
- Tremlett, Giles. *Isabella of Castile: Europe's First Great Queen*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2017.
- Webster, Roseanna. "A Spanish Housewife Is Your Next Door Neighbour": British Women and the Spanish Civil War." *Gender & History* 27.2 (2015): 397–416.

## Course Schedule

The course will have five major parts:

Part I. Studying Women and Revolution (in Theory and History) [2 weeks]

Part II. Women's Roles in Early Modern and Imperial Spain [4 weeks]

- A. The Women Before the *Reconquista*
- B. The Making of the Spanish Empire: The Queen and Iberian Women
- C. Women in Colonized Hispanic Societies

Part III. Women in the Modern Period [3 weeks]

- A. Women and the Spanish Civil War
- B. Women in Franco Spain

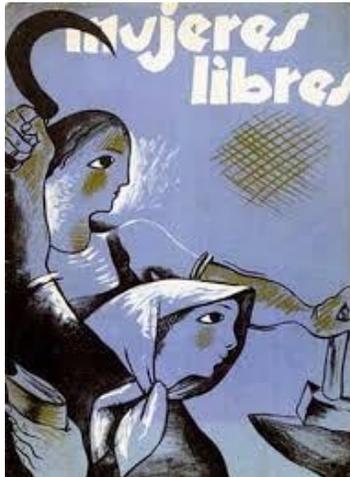
Part IV. Research Presentations [2 weeks]

Finding Revolutionary Women in Spain's Past and Present

Part V. Contemporary Feminist Challenges [1 week]

Women dealing with Spain's Colonial and Fascist Legacy

### Part I. Studying Women and Revolution (in Theory and History)



#### Week 1: Introductions

Welcome to Seville! Welcome to Spain!  
Exploring our course, exploring women and revolution

How do we define revolutions or radicalism?

Exploring our definitions--Submit 1-2 paragraphs (up to one-page essay) explaining your own definition of revolution. What is a revolution? What makes something “revolutionary”? Who is a revolutionary? A female revolutionary?

Week 2: Understanding Women, Gender, and Revolution  
Understanding Gender and Mobilization/Revolution

**Part II.**  
**Women’s Roles in Early Modern and Imperial Spain**

Weeks 3-4: Historical Women of the Iberia



Week 3: The Women Before the Reconquista

Who were Santa Justa and Santa Rufina? Patron Saints of Seville

Week 4: The Catholic Queen

Queen Isabella: Warrior Queen and Catholic Monarch

Weeks 5-6: Women and the Spanish Empire



Week 5: Women of the Iberian Empire

Sustaining the Empire

Week 6: La Malinche and American Women of the Empire

From Collaboration to Resistance

Women in the Anti-colonial Revolutions in Latin America and the Philippines

**Part III.  
Women in Modern Spain**



Weeks 7 and 8: Women and the Spanish Civil War

Week 7:

*La Pasionara*, and Radical, Anarchist *Republicanas*

Week 8:

Fellow Travelers: Non-Spanish Women Joining the Republican Cause

Week 9: Women in Franco Spain

Supporting and Resisting the Fascist Regime

**Part IV.  
Research Presentations**

Weeks 10 and 11:

The fourth part of the course will be individual presentations. Each student will explore more deeply a particular revolutionary woman or group in the Iberian and/or Hispanic colonial world. And then they will make a presentation based on their research to the class, which will then be the basis of the written, final report and requirement for the course.

**Part V.**  
**Contemporary Feminist Challenges**



Week 12: Introducing Contemporary Feminist Icons

Who are Clara Campoamor Rodriguez, Federica Montseny, Carmen Amaya and Rosa Montero? Getting to know the Modern Heroines of Spain.

Conclusions:

Finding the Modern Spanish Revolutionary Woman