

INST 312: Modern Iberian Politics

MWF 1:00–1:50

Croft 107

Professor: Miguel Centellas
Office: 335 Deupree Hall
Office Hours: MW 9:00-12:00

Office phone: (662) 915-7403
Email: mcentell@olemiss.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Although the recent euro crisis has brought attention to Spain, Spain and Portugal are given limited attention in comparative studies. Yet Spain and Portugal are important and informative cases. Both were early democratizers, and informed our early understanding of transitions from authoritarian regimes. Both were among the first “new democracies” to join the European Union, and set the stage for the ascension process that postcommunist East European countries would undergo. In particular, Spain is an interesting model of state devolution, with the autonomy processes in Catalonia and the Basque country serving as models for a number of cases, in Europe and beyond.

This course focuses on “modern” Iberian politics, defined as the period since the mid-1970s. We will explore the historical cultural, economic, and political contexts that helped shape the most recent period in the two countries’ histories. The course will give you a firm understanding of the general contours of contemporary Spanish and Portuguese politics, both in their domestic and international dimensions. Although our focus will remain on politics, we will also contextualize politics within the economic and cultural transformations that both countries have undergone as they moved away from authoritarianism and towards democracy and (re)integration into “Europe.”

Our focus on the Portuguese transition and the modern Catalan nationalist movement will allow us to explore in more detail two important “cases” within Iberian politics. We will pay attention to the use of case study methodology is used to generalize beyond the immediate case—an important component of any case study. We will see how the Portuguese transition to democracy fits within the broader framework of transitions to democracy (or revolutions). We will also see how Catalan nationalism fits within the broader literature on nationalism.

COURSE TEXTS

The following books are required for this course:

Guibernau, Montserrat. *Catalan Nationalism: Francoism, Transition, and Democracy*. Routledge, 2012.

Magone, José M. *Contemporary Spanish Politics*. Routledge, 2008.

Maxwell, Kenneth. *The Making of Portuguese Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

The following books are recommended for this course:

Baglione, Lisa. *Writing A Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods*. Los Angeles: Sage/CQ Press.

Birmingham, David. *A Concise History of Portugal*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Phillips, William D, Jr. and Carla Rahn Phillips. *A Concise History of Spain*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Below is a summary of the course requirements and their percentage of the final grade:

	Points	% of grade
Participation	50	10
Review presentations (x2)	50	10
Midterm Exam	100	20
Final Exam	100	20
Assignments (x2)	50	10
Research presentation	50	10
Seminar paper	100	20
Total	500	

Participation

Active participation in class is an essential part of learning, particularly in advanced level courses. Participation in this course is worth 10% of the semester grade. This will be based on my subjective evaluation of your performance. To earn a high participation grade, you not only need to regularly attend class, but also ask questions, make comments, and actively engage in our discussions.

In methods courses, engaged participation is essential. We will cover a wide range of methodological issues, concepts, and techniques. And we will move through them rapidly. If you don't understand something, ask. Asking questions is not a sign of a bad student—it is a sign of a confident, curious, and engaged student.

Review Presentations

You are responsible for two review presentations. On those days, you will be responsible to give a short (less than five minutes) presentation about the reading. Your task will be to (briefly) summarize the key points of the reading and place the readings in the context of the course—that is, how the reading fit with previous week's readings.

You are responsible for your discussion days. If you are absent on a day that you are responsible to lead discussion, you will earn a zero. If you know you will have to miss, it is your responsibility to find someone in class to switch dates with you.

Semester Research Project

Throughout the semester, you will work on an independent seminar research project related to Spain and/or Portugal. This project offers you an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of course materials—and use to them as the starting point for your own research.

Seminar Paper. The largest component of the research project is a seminar paper. You are not required to do “original” research for this paper. Rather, you are expected to explore a narrow topic related to Spanish and/or Portuguese politics and summarize the current scholarship that addresses the issue. I will provide specific guidelines for the seminar paper later in the semester.

Research Presentation. In addition to the written seminar paper, you will also give a formal presentation to the class (during the last week of the semester). I will provide specific guidelines for the seminar paper later in the semester.

Assignments

There are two assignments in the course, both directly connected to your final semester paper. These include:

- 1) A ***preliminary research statement*** (2-3 paragraphs), in which you outline a specific research question related to Spanish or Portuguese politics that you would like to explore throughout the semester.
- 2) A ***preliminary research bibliography***, in which you list at least five scholarly sources (articles or books) you will use in your semester paper.

I will provide specific guidelines for each assignment later in the semester. You should work on each of these in consultation with me (preferably during office hours). Each written assignment is worth 5% of the semester grade.

Exams

This course will have two exams: a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final semester grade.

The ***midterm exam*** will cover the material covered during the first half of the semester. This includes the historical background (1400s-1960s) covered during the second week of classes and lecture material on Portugal that parallel the discussions of Spain in the Magone textbook (*Politics in Contemporary Spain*).

The ***final exam*** will primarily cover the material covered during the second half of the semester, when we focus on our two case studies: Portugal's 1974 "Carnations Revolution" and the Catalan nationalist movement. However, since both discussions are grounded in the earlier material, the final exam will include questions about the general contours of modern Spanish and Portuguese politics.

GRADING SCALE

This course uses the university's new +/- grading scale. The corresponding percentages and point scores for each +/- letter grade are outlined below:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	93-100	465-500
A-	90-92	450-464
B+	87-89	435-449
B	83-86	415-434
B-	80-82	400-414
C+	77-79	385-399
C	73-76	365-384
C-	70-72	350-364
D	60-69	300-349
F	0-59	0-299

ADDITIONAL ISSUES & CLASS RULES

Please be sure you follow these basic class rules and policies throughout the semester:

Classroom Behavior. I do not allow the use of cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices in class without permission. I also expect you to consistently behave in ways that demonstrate your respect for me and the course, your fellow students, and yourself.

Missing Assignments. If you prepare for contingencies (by not starting to work on assignments the night before), you should not miss any assignments. Even if your work is incomplete, submitting what you have accomplished prior to any unexpected emergency is better than earning a zero. Extensions will only be granted for extreme circumstances, and at my discretion.

Communication. Email is the most common way for students and faculty to communicate outside of class. I try to answer messages promptly, but do not expect emails sent *after 6pm* to be answered until *after 8 am* the following day. Additionally, remember to keep messages professional and respectful (e.g. use salutations, such as “Professor Centellas” or “Dr. Centellas”). Also, check your university email account regularly; I will use that address when sending important messages related to the course.

Student Disability Services. If you have a *documented* disability as described by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 933-112 Section 504) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and would like to request academic and/or physical accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services at 234 Martindale Center (662-915-7128). Course requirements will not be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided as appropriate. Please consult <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/> for more information on student disability services.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism. All work submitted under *your* name is assumed to be *your* original work. The penalty for plagiarism and/or cheating in this class ranges from failure of the assignment to failing the course. Additional penalties are also possible. All students should familiarize themselves with the relevant guidelines and procedures in the *M Book*.

INST 312 COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Topic / Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1	8/26	Introduction; hand out syllabus	
	8/28	No class (APSA) *Baglione, Chapter 2	
	8/30	No class (APSA)	
		Historical Background	
Week 2	9/02	No class—Labor Day	
	9/04	Magone, Chapter 1 Maxwell, Chapter 1	
	9/06	Lecture (History)	
		Political Culture & Civil Society	
Week 3	9/09	Magone, Chapter 2	Preliminary research statement
	9/11	Magone, Chapters 6-7	
	9/13	Lecture (Portugal)	
		Political Institutions	
Week 4	9/16	Magone, Chapter 3	
	9/18	Magone, Chapter 4	
	9/20	Lecture (Portugal)	
		EU Integration	
Week 5	9/23	Magone, Chapter 8	
	9/25	Magone, Chapter 9	
	9/27	Lecture (Portugal)	
		Foreign Policy	
Week 6	9/30	Magone, Chapter 10	
	10/02	Lecture (Portugal)	
	10/04	Midterm exam review	
Week 7	10/07	Midterm Exam	
	10/09	Midterm Exam	
	10/11	No class—rest after exam	
		Portugal's "Carnation Revolution"	
Week 8	10/14	Maxwell, Chapters 2-3	Preliminary research bibliography
	10/16	Maxwell, Chapters 3-4	
	10/18	Maxwell, Chapter 5	
Week 9	10/21	Maxwell, Chapters 6-7	
	10/23	Maxwell, Chapters 8-9	
	10/25	Review and discuss research projects	

		Spain's Regionalisms (Catalonia)	
Week 10	10/28	Magone, Chapter 5	
	10/30	Guibernau, Introduction	
	11/01	Guibernau, Chapter 1	
Week 11	11/04	Guibernau, Chapter 2	
	11/06	Guibernau, Chapter 3	
	11/08	Guibernau, Chapter 4	
Week 12	11/11	Guibernau, Chapter 5	
	11/13	Guibernau, Chapter 6	
	11/15	Review and discuss research projects	
Week 13	11/18	Work independently	
	11/20	Work independently	
	11/22	Work independently	
		Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14	12/02	Student presentations	
	12/04	Student presentations	
	12/06	Student presentations	
		Final Exam	