COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the concept of culture related to Human Rights, by analyzing the main cases in which these two concepts are in conflict. From the discussion of the limits of the “culture” notion in society, students will analyze different real cases and contexts in order to get a view of the situation of Human Rights in Spanish society and how society reinforces or hinders the application of Human Rights. Specific goals will be:

- to get a real image of Spanish culture, avoiding stereotypes or cultural misunderstandings
- to promote an open mind by discussing cultural and Human Rights topics in class
- to help the acceptance of the “cultural pluralism”
- to give a linguistic orientation of the cases in which language and Human Rights can be in conflict
- to compare how cultural differences affect to the fact of Human Rights in different countries

COURSE STRATEGIES

Students will read the texts provided by the professor as a start to the thinking and discussion in class about the contents of the course. Movies related to Spanish Culture’s topics will be shown, as a complementary material to discuss these topics with the class.

It is basic for the student to realize the importance of preparing the class daily. Because of the approach of the course, his / her participation in class will determine a big part of the final grade.

Texts will consist of political, social and historical documents directly related to the contents presented in class. This materials will be the necessary complement to give the student a wide perspective about Spanish cultural reality and Human Rights implications. Students will also read literary texts in order to get a global perspective of the topics.

There will be three written exams (50% of the final grade)

Students will write an essay, in which they will need to make an argument and support it with evidence from the readings selected. The goal will be to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking about the topic in question. The essays will have the following characteristics:
-Extension: minimum 3,000 words  
-Format: Times New Roman 12 (Double space)  
-Quotes and Works Cited: MLA System  

Two versions of the essay will be handed. Deadlines will be as follows:

FIRST VERSION  End of Week 8  
SECOND VERSION  End of Week 15  

PLEASE NOTE THAT MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR LATE SUBMISSION OF PAPERS  

PLAGIARISM WILL BE STRICTLY PROSECUTED. Please cite or quote all ideas that are not your own or common knowledge. If you are unsure about whether something would be plagiarism, please ask. Plagiarism will result in marks being deducted from the grade.  

The rest of the final grade will result on attendance and ACTIVE participation, as following:

- Written Exams 50%  
- Essay 30%  
- Attendance and participation 20%  

Class attendance is mandatory. Each non justified absence will result in a 2% deduction in the final grade. Active participation is very important. Students should always feel free to state their opinions in a way that invites discussion. No outside knowledge of human rights or Spanish culture will be necessary for effective class participation. Discussion of other scholarship, history and current events will be welcome when relevant, but careful reading of the materials assigned and concentrated thinking about the ideas raised in class will be a sufficient basis from which to contribute profitably to class discussion.  

Using laptops in class is forbidden, except in justified cases or if required for class activities.  

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY  

Patricia BARBADILLO GRIÑÁN, Extranjería, racismo y xenofobia en la España contemporánea: la evolución de los setenta a los noventa, Madrid, Siglo XXI, 1997  
Tomás CALVO BUEZAS, ¿España racista?: voces payas sobre los gitanos, Barcelona, Anthropos, 1990  
Jacqueline CRUZ y Bárbara ZECCHI (eds.), La mujer en la España actual: ¿evolución o involución?, Barcelona, Icaria, 2004  
Florencio DOMÍNGUEZ IRIBARREN, Dentro de ETA: la vida diaria de los terroristas, Madrid, Aguilar, 2002  
Margarita ESPUÑA, Morir por amor a la vida: testimonios de eutanasias en España, Barcelona, Luciérnaga, 2005  
Antonio GARCÍA LIZANA, La pobreza en España, Madrid, Encuentro, 1996  
Luis GARRIDO, La emancipación de los jóvenes en España, Madrid, Instituto de la Juventud, 1995  
Carmen GIL, Nexos. Actividades de cultura y civilización, Madrid, SGEL, 2003  
Carmen GURRUCHAGA, El fin de ETA, Barcelona, Planeta, 2006
Ubaldo MARTÍNEZ VEIGA, Trabajadores invisibles: precariedad, rotación y pobreza de la inmigración española, Madrid, Los Libros de la Catarata, 2004
Alberto MIRA, De Sodoma a Chueca: una historia cultural de la homosexualidad en España en el siglo XX, Barcelona, Egales, 2004
Sonia NÚÑEZ PUENTE, Reescribir la femineidad: la mujer y el discurso cultural en la España contemporánea, Madrid, Pliegos, 2008
Luisa PIEMONTESE-RAMOS y Carlos ARBOLEDA, España: temas de cultura y civilización, Boston, Thomson-Heinle, 2004
Juan José RUIZ GIMÉNEZ, Aproximación a España. Cultura, Madrid, Colmares, 2008
Iris M. ZAVALA, La otra mirada del siglo XX: la mujer en la España contemporánea, Madrid, La Esfera de los Libros, 2004

IMPORTANT: Students do NOT need to buy any class material. The professor will provide with enough anticipation the required materials for daily work.
IMPORTANT: This syllabus is a GUIDANCE for the student. Some activities may vary or be changed depending on class development and students’ needings. Additional readings will be included in the reading packs along the course.

WEEK 1

-Culture vs. Human Rights
  -The concept of Culture
  -Cultural Diversity and Human Rights: between universalism and relativism

Readings:

Gonzalo Gamio, “Cultura de los Derechos Humanos versus relativismo cultural”

WEEK 2

-Human Rights in Spain
  -The Constitution of 1978 and its involvements in Human Rights
  -Spanish institutions for Human Rights: the “ONG”

Readings:

Constitution of 1978 (selected articles)
Spanish non-profit websites

WEEK 3

-Women’s Rights in Spain (I)
  -Discrimination cases against women
  -Equality laws in Spain

Readings:

Selected articles from “Instituto de la Mujer” (www.inmujer.es) and “Ministerio de Igualdad” (www.migualdad.es)
“Plan estratégico para la Igualdad”
WEEK 4

-Women’s Rights in Spain (II)
  -Gender violence in Spain
  -Showing and discussion of the film Te doy mis ojos (Icíar Bollaín, 2003)

Readings:

E. Oliver, “Violencia de género: investigaciones sobre quiénes, por qué y cómo superarla”

WEEK 5

-Racism and immigration in Spain (I)
  -The racism in Spain: origin and evolution in modern society
WRITTEN EXAM 1

Readings:

“Los españoles sí somos racistas”

WEEK 6

-Racism and immigration in Spain (II)
  -Immigration and Human Rights
  -Showing and discussion of the film Princesas (Fernando León, 2005)

Readings:

Selected articles from Spanish Immigration Laws

WEEK 7

-Terrorism in Spain (I)
  -ETA: the Basque Country and the Birth of terrorism
  -Showing and discussion of the film Lobo (Michel Courtois, 2005)

Readings:

“Historia de ETA”

WEEK 8

-Terrorism in Spain (II)
  -ETA: current events
-Showing and discussion of the film *La pelota vasca. La piel contra la piedra* (Julio Medem, 2004)

-WRITTEN ESSAY (1st VERSION)

Readings:

Álvaro Vargas Llosa, “ETA: ¿el principio del fin?”

**WEEK 9**

-Young people and Human Rights (I)
  -The Spanish family model and Human Rights problems
  -Showing and discussion of the film *El bola* (Achero Mañas, 2000)

Readings:

“La familia española”

**WEEK 10**

-Young people and Human Rights (II)
  -School and Human Rights
  -Young unemployment as a Human Rights problem

Readings:

“Generación ‘ni-ni’: ni estudian ni trabajan”

**WEEK 11**

-A case of Human Rights and minorities: the gypsy people
  -Origin of gypsy people and its historical evolution in Spain
  -The “gypsy culture” and its problems in Spanish society

Readings:

“Historia del pueblo gitano”
“Gitanos, una historia de discriminación”

**WEEK 12**

-Poverty in Spain
-Unemployment and poverty
  -Showing and discussion of the film *Los lunes al sol* (Fernando León, 2002)
Readings:

Reports about poverty in Spain (selection)

WEEK 13

-The right to life and death: the controversy of euthanasia
  -Showing and discussion of the film Mar adentro (Alejandro Amenábar, 2004)

Carmen Tomás-Valiente Lanuza, “Perspectivas sobre la regulación de la eutanasia en España”

WEEK 14

-Sexuality and Human Rights: homosexuality in Spanish society
  -Showing and discussion of the film A mi madre le gustan las mujeres (Inés París y Daniela Fejerman, 2002)

Readings:

Laws about sexuality in Spain (selection)

WEEK 15

-WRITTEN ESSAY (2nd VERSION)
-WRITTEN EXAM 3