

# ***HISTORY OF SPAIN***

## **1. Introduction**

The aims of the General History of Spain course is to present a basic comprehensive synthesis of the subjects to be studied, where the historical evolution of Spain is condensed from its origins to the present day, emphasising the economic, social and cultural aspects as well as the political development. Special attention is to be paid to aspects of the Spanish civilisation such as plastic arts, folklore and other pertinent features of the Hispanic character in its different regional manifestations.

The classes are lectures given that the command of the Spanish language is of a low level in the students on the *Spanish Language and Culture Studies Course*, and will be supplemented with graphic material, maps, slides, diagrams, etc.

## **2. Syllabus**

### *Antiquity I. The roots of Spain*

1. The physical environment of the human settlements. Pre-historic eras. Colonisation and Tartessos. Pre-Roman peoples.

### *Antiquity II. (III b.c. – VIII a.c. centuries)*

2. The Roman Conquest of the Iberian mainland and the problem of Romanisation. Political, economic and administrative organisation. The Hispanic-Roman society. Settling of the Germanic peoples on the mainland. The Visigothic kingdom and the transition to the medieval world.

### *Middle Ages I (VIII - XIII centuries)*

3. The creation of Islamic Spain: the birth of Al-Andalus. The Caliphate of Cordoba. The Taifa kingdoms and Berber empires. The creation of the Christian nuclei of resistance. The Christian Re-conquest. Society and culture.

### *Middle Ages II (XIV – XV centuries)*

4. The medieval crisis. The kingdom of Castilla. The Mediterranean expansion of the Crown of Aragón. The political institutions. Society.

### *Middle Ages III (XIV – XV centuries)*

5. The Nasrid kingdom in Granada. Administrative division. The city of

Granada. The settlers. The economy.

### *III. The creation of the modern state*

6. The Catholic Kings. Territorial unity: the conquest of the kingdom of Granada. The incorporation of Navarra. European politics. Religious politics. Social and economic politics. The Renaissance.

#### *Modern Age I. The Spanish Golden Age (XVI century)*

7. The empire of Charles I. The common movement. Political Empire: the wars with France, protestants and Turks. The failure of the political Empire. The political lines of Philip II. The religious repression. The union with Portugal. The Armada. State, society and culture. The minority groups: the Jews and the Moors. The Church.

#### *Modern Age II. The crisis of the XVII century (1598-1700)*

8. Philip III and the *favourites*. The expulsion of the Moors. The reign of Philip IV. The revolt of Catalunya and Portugal. Charles II: the chaos of the state. The succession problem. The culture of the sixteenth-hundreds.

#### *Modern Age III. The Borbon Reformism (1700-1789)*

9. The reign of Philip V and Ferdinand VI. The centralisation of the State. Enlightenment Despotism: the reign of Charles III. The culture of the Enlightenment.

### *IV. Contemporary Age I*

10. The crisis of the Old Regime. The reign of Charles IV (1788-1808). The War of the Independence. The Spanish Constitution of 1812. The reign of Ferdinand VII: monarchic absolutism. The liberal three year period (1820-1823). The ominous decade (1823-1833). The independence of the American colonies.

#### *Contemporary Age II*

11. The reign of Isabel II (1833-1868). Political unstableness. Moderates and progressives. The triumph of liberalism. The revolution of 1868. The first Spanish Republic. Economy and society.

#### *Contemporary Age III. Crisis of the Restoration (1902-1931)*

12. Alfonso XII (1875-1885) and the Restoration. The loss of the last Spanish colonies. Economic and social transformations of the Restoration. The origins of the workers movement. The regionalist movements. Science and thought.

#### *Contemporary Age IV*

13. Alfonso XIII. The social classes. The new political leaders. The

revolutionary crisis of 1917. The Dictatorship of Primo Rivera (1923-1930). The Second Spanish Republic. The Republican-Socialist government of Azaña. The religious problem. The agrarian reform. The victory of the Popular Front. The Spanish culture in the first third of the XX century. The generation of '98 and the generation of '27.

#### *Contemporary Age V*

14. The military uprising and the civil war. International intervention. The triumph of Franco. Political dictatorship. Social conflict (1962-1975). The transition to Democracy. The new monarchy. The constitution of 1978. The attempt at a coup on 23 February.

### **3. Activities**

The students must read two books during the course which refer to sections III and IV of the syllabus, and these will be debated on in class after handing in a summary. Also, a visit will be arranged to the General Library of the University along with a visit to another library. The dates for these visits will be given when the classes begin.

### **4. Assessment**

Two substantial tests will be set in one mid-term exam when half the syllabus has been covered and as second exam at the end of the term. Also, presentations of the above-mentioned set books and class attendance will be taken into account.

### **5. Bibliography**

- AA.VV. *Historia de España*, Madrid, Historia 16, 1990.  
GARCÍA DE CORTÁZAR, F., GONZÁLEZ VESGA, J.M., *Breve Historia de España*, Madrid, Alianza 1995.  
ROLDÁN, J. M., *Historia de España*, Madrid, ed-6, 1984.  
TUÑÓN DE LARA, M., VALDEÓN BARUQUE, J., DOMÍNGUEZ ORTIZ, A., *Historia de España*, Barcelona, Labor, 1991.  
VILAR, Pierre, *Historia de España*, Barcelona, Crítica, 1981.  
CARO BAROJA, Julio, *Los pueblos de España*, Madrid, Istmo,

1989, 2 volumes.

GARCÍA CÁRCEL, Ricardo, *Las culturas del siglo de Oro*, Madrid, Biblioteca Historia 16, 1989.

*HISTORIA DE ESPAÑA ALFAGUARA* directed by Miguel ARTOLA, Madrid, Alianza Universidad, 1979, 7 volumes.

*HISTORIA DE ESPAÑA* directed by Manuel TUÑÓN DE LARA, Barcelona, Lábor, 1992.

MOLAS RIBALTA, Pere, *La Monarquía española (XVI – XVIII centuries)*, Madrid, Biblioteca de Historia 16, 1989.

PAREDES ALONSO, Javier, *La España liberal del s. XIX*, Madrid, Anaya, Biblioteca Iberoamericana, 1988.