



Máster en Historia Contemporánea 66611 - Historiography and society in modern Spain

Course 2011 - 2012

Curso: 1, Semestre: 1, Créditos: 5.0

Basic information

Teachers

- **Gonzalo Vicente Pasamar Alzuria** gpasamar@unizar.es

Recommendations to attend this course

- To have basic knowledge of historiography and of the history of Spain in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Basic knowledge of the English language.

Course Schedule and Deadlines

During the year 2009–10 classes will take place from October 2009 to January 2010 (both included) on Thursdays, from 17 h. to 19 h. p.m., at the Seminar of Contemporary History (Facultad de Filosofía y Letras).

During the year 2010–11, from February to May 2011 (the same Seminar) (timetable waiting to be established by the Faculty).

Practices will take place in the same timetable. In case the attendance at any further seminar organized by the University or another institution was proposed, it will be informed far enough in advance (for the year 2009–10 the presence at the International Seminar “Hispanismo e historia en el mundo global” will be compulsory [assembly room of “María Moliner” Library, November 19–20, 2009]).

Tutorials will take place at professor’s office on Mondays and Tuesdays (12 h.–13h. p.m.)

Final exam will take place at the Seminar of Contemporary History during the last week of the school period, which will be informed in due course.

Home

Learning outcomes that define this course

The student, in order to pass the course, will have to show her/his competence in the following skills:

- 1:** Knowledge of the main institutions devoted to promoting the writing of history in Spain, from the end of

the eighteenth century to the present.

- 2:** Knowledge of the foremost historians (Modesto Lafuente, Rafael Altamira, Jaume Vicens Vives...).
- 3:** Knowledge of the pivotal aspects and challenges of Spanish historiography throughout the two last centuries: the representation of the liberal idea of nation, its participation in the regeneration movement, the Civil War of 1936-39 and the exiles, the reception of the paradigm of economic and social history, the influence of current historical trends.
- 4:** Ability to attribute Spanish works and authors to their respective historiographic trends and historical circumstances.

Introduction

Brief presentation of the course

This subject offers an exposition of the development of Spanish historiography from the end of the eighteenth century to the present. The term "history of historiography" is to be understood in the widest sense of the word, that is, the writing of history proper, along with all the social, political and intellectual elements related to it. This includes the social and professional position of historians, their association activities and institutions, their concept of national history and their political opinions, in addition to foreign influences (including Hispanism) and the place of Spanish historians in international historiography.

The program is in four parts:

1. The new historical genres of the nineteenth century and their antecedents: nacional history, history of civilization and economic and social history.
2. The emergence of professional historiography in Spain.
3. The foreign influences and the role of Hispanism during the twentieth century.
4. The current situation.

Competences

General aims of the course

The expected results of the course respond to the following general aims

The importance of this subject lies in the fact that it is mirroring the current relevance - in Spain and abroad - of studies in the history of historiography. It is characterized by its approach coming from intellectual and socio-cultural history, which allows us to develop a wide analysis by avoiding a mere retrospective of books and authors from the current situation. This analysis includes, in addition to the exam of the foremost Spanish historians and their activities, that of cultural institutions that have them sheltered (their political and social circumstances too), without forgetting both their relations with foreign authors and their capacity to assimilate foreign influences.

Context/Importance of the course for the master degree

As a matter especially devoted to Spanish historiography and its social and political context, the contents of this subject are intended to complement all of those subjects of the Master degree tending to expose the political and cultural aspects of the history of Spain in modern and contemporary ages.

After completing the course, the student will be competent in the following skills:

1: Capacity to distinguish theoretical and methodological differences in the historical discipline.

2: Knowledge of its current scientific trends.

These abilities are to be specified thus:

- To attribute the Spanish historians and their works to certain intellectual trends and historical circumstances.
- To distinguish the peculiarities of Spanish historiography compared to other neighbouring historiographic traditions.
- To assess what the place of Spanish historiography in the international field is - including its dependence on influences and debates coming from foreign countries and from Hispanism.

Relevance of the skills acquired in the course

The skills acquired in the course:

1. Contribute to the development of an advanced knowledge in political and intellectual history, in addition to the inquiry into the topic of historical memory in contemporary Spain, both to teaching and to research. This will be achieved through the analysis of aspects such: the study of the foremost Spanish historians and hispanists, and their circumstances; and the institutions and associations devoted to promoting the research and the teaching of history.
2. Help to provide a context - scientific and intellectual circumstances - for Spanish historical bibliography in general, and for pivotal debates on historiography in Spain in particular.
3. Help to place the Spanish historiography in the international field.
4. Contribute to better understand the relationships between primary and secondary sources in historical research, because of the special topic developed in this subject (historians and their historical writings).
5. Contribute to develop the ability to take part in academic debates on relevant aspects concerning Spanish society and culture.

Evaluation

Assessment tasks

The student will prove that he/she has achieved the expected learning results by means of the following assessment tasks:

1: Assessment tasks:

- Attendance to classes and active participation in them.
- Individual presentation summarizing a book or a report/article to be discussed in the classroom.
- Composition of a ten-page essay/paper.
- Test.

2: Assessment criteria:

- Active participation will be considered: the involvement in the discussion of the texts by Spanish historians (see below), in addition to the debates started as a result of public presentations or suggested by the professor.
- Topics for individual presentations will be taken from the bibliography of the subject - with prior advice by the professor - preferably from the section "La situación actual" (referred to current trends and debates) (see below).
- The ten-page individual essay or composition will be supervised by the professor, consisting of free topic. It will be taken into account its emphasis in the vocabulary and in the presentation, the rigour of information,

- and its capacity for criticism.
- The exam will consist of the development of a topic imparted by the professor.

3:
Assessment system:

The grade will be distributed thus:

- Attendance to classes and participation: 20%
- Individual presentation: 20%
- Ten-page essay/paper: 40%
- Exam: 20%

Activities and resources

Course methodology

The learning process that has been designed for this course is based on the following activities:

The learning of the subject will consist of three sorts of activities:

1. Lectures.
2. Search for bibliography. The bibliography (available in moodle.unizar.es) is divided into three types, in accordance with the aforementioned conception of the history of historiography:
 - Works of Spanish history of historiography (XVIII-XX centuries).
 - Studies on intellectual history (XVIII-XX centuries).
 - State of the arts, overviews, and recent debates on Spanish historiography.
3. Analysis of texts (see the section of programmed activities).

Outline of the Programme

The programme offered to the students to help them achieve the learning results includes the following activities :

- 1:**
Lectures.
- 2:**
Analysis of texts (texts available in moodle.unizar.es).
- 3:**
Presentations and discussions by the students.

Course planning

Calendar of actual sessions and presentation of works

During the year 2009-10, classes will take place from October 2009 to January 2010, 17-19 p.m., at the Seminar of Contemporary History (Facultad de Filosofía y Letras).

During the year 2010-11, classes will be developed from February to May 2011 (same place), timetable waiting to be established by the Faculty.

The submission of academic works will take place in the office hours (professor's office, numb. 86) (the last week of January, year 2009-10; the last week of May, year 2010-11).

Bibliographic references of the recommended readings