

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

Center for Basque Studies

Contemporary Basque Politics, PCS 407 / BASQ 407

Course: Contemporary Basque Politics

Instructor: Dr. Xabier Irujo

Semester: Spring

Schedule: W 16:00-18:45

Room: Center for Basque Studies, Conference Room 305

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Nota Bene

Please read this syllabus carefully, for your decision to enroll in this course constitutes your acceptance of the requirements stated in it.

This is an *elective* course; you are not *required* to take it. One main topic of this course is censorship versus freedom of expression in the Spanish state. Students will be required to read, view, ponder, and write about the works read in the course. No one will be excused from doing this work and no alternative assignments will be given.

This syllabus represents my best effort to project the design of this course. Nonetheless, I reserve the right to modify any aspect of the course as the need arises.

Course Description

Subsequent to an introduction of the history of Basque politics and law, this course initiates students to current Basque political proposals within the two Basque parliaments. Moreover, propositions by the contemporary nationalist political parties dealing with the European Union will be examined.

We will examine the contemporary Basque politics on its many different aspects, studying works, laws and relevant documents produced under the different historical periods of the contemporary Basque Country.

After an initial presentation of historical background information, each day will be devoted to an introduction to an aspect, reading abstracts on them and discussing them. After a short break, we will read scholarly articles, analyzing the writings and discussing the readings. A final exam will include the works and articles covered in class. Lastly, each student will design a creative project 15-to-20 pages in response to one of the topics we have studied and present it to the class.

As an upper-division elective, the class will be dedicated to refining advanced notions of cultural understanding. The entire course content will enhance cultural knowledge of the Basque Country.

Outcomes

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Articulate characteristics of the socio-economical, historical and political context in the Basque Country from the beginning of the 19th century, through Franco's dictatorship, and up to the contemporary democracy and the troubles.
- Recognize documents, political parties and politicians in the Basque Country.
- Analyze the political sources of information from multiple critical perspectives.
- Summarize and critique secondary sources on books or DVDs, including scholarly articles.
- Write formal, expository prose (with access to reference tools), analyzing the read books and documents.
- Take accurate notes in a lecture format.
- Discuss opinions and interpretations of the topics under study.

Grades

Students will earn their grades by completing the following course components. To estimate your grade, fill in the corresponding blanks below with the results of your work.

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Punctual attendance & active participation | 200 | points |
| One project (and its presentation) | 400 | points |
| Middle Term take-home examination | 200 | points |
| Final exam | <u>200</u> | <u>points</u> |

| | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| Total | 1,000 | points |
|-------|-------|--------|

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------|--------|
| A | = | 900-1,000 | points |
| B | = | 800-899 | points |
| C | = | 700-799 | points |
| D | = | 600-699 | points |
| F | = | 0-599 | points |

Lectures

Required book

1. Irujo, Xabier, *On Basque Politics. Conversations with Pete Cenarrusa*, EURI, Brussels, 2009.

Recommended readings

1. Clark, Robert P., *The Basques: The Franco Years and Beyond*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1979. (DP302.B53 C55).
2. Heiberg, Marianne, *The Making of the Basque Nation*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1989. (GN549.B3 H45 1989).
3. Kurlansky, Mark, *The Basque History of the World*, Walker and Co., New York, 1999. (DP302.B46 K85 1999).

The student will also use texts available in the internet and the notes written by the professor, Dr. Xabier Irujo Ametzaga.

Required articles

1. Chapman, Sandra, *Report on the Basque Conflict. Keys to Understanding ETA's permanent ceasefire*, www.lokarri.org/files/File/PDF/Inform.pdf?, Lokarri. Citizen Network for Agreement and Consultation, 2006.
2. Espiau Idoiaga, Gorka, *The Basque conflict: new ideas and prospects for peace* [electronic resource!], U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, 2006.
3. We will also use texts (articles from magazines) available in the internet and the notes written by the professor, Dr. Xabier Irujo.

Videorecordings

- Wells, Orson, *Around the World with Orson Wells. Basque Country 1&2*, British Television, 1955.
- Tuduri, José María, *Chronicle of the Second Carlist War (1872-1876)*, Zauli Films, 1988.
- Medem, Julio, *La pelota vasca: la piel contra la piedra / Euskal pilota: larrua harriaren contra*, Alicia Productions, 2003.

¹ Mode of access: Internet from the USIP web site. Address as of 5/25/06:
<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr161.pdf>

Additional Bibliography:

Books

- Barahona, Renato, *Vizcaya on the Eve of Carlism: Politics and Society, 1800-1833*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1989. (DP302.V49 B37 1989).
- Bell, Adrian, *Only for three months: the Basque children in exile*, Mousehold Press, Norwich, 1996.
- Clark, Robert P., *The Basque Insurgents; ETA, 1952-1980*, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1984. (DP302.B53 C54 1984).
- Conversi, Daniele, *The Basques, the Catalans, and Spain: Alternative Routes to Nationalist Mobilization*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1997. (DP302.B55 C66 1997).
- Coverdale, John F., *The Basque Phase of Spain's First Carlist War*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1984. (DP219.2.C68 1984).
- Heiberg, Marianne, *The Making of the Basque Nation*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1989. (GN549.B3 H45 1989).
- Irvin, Cynthia L., *Militant nationalism: between movement and party in Ireland and the Basque Country*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1999.
- Jacob, James E., *Hills of Conflict: Basque Nationalism in France*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1994. (DC611.B318 J33 1994).
- Kurlansky, Mark, *The Basque History of the World*, Walker and Co., New York, 1999. (DP302.B46 K85 1999).
- Monreal Zia, Gregorio, *The Old Law of Bizkaia*, Center for Basque Studies/University of Nevada, 2005. ISBN 1-877802-52-2.
- Nuñez Astrain, Luis, *The Basques: their struggle for independence*, Welsh Academic Press, 1997.
- Payne, Stanley G., *Basque Nationalism*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1975. (DP302.B53 P38).
- Southworth, Herbert R., *Guernica, Guernica! A study of journalism, diplomacy, propaganda and history*, University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, 1977. (Basq DP 269.27.G8 S69 c.3).
- Zirakzadeh, Cyrus E., *A Rebellious People; Basques, Protests, and Politics*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, 1991. (DP302.B53 Z57 1991).

Organization

All classes are conducted in English. You may consult with me before or after class, during office hours, by phone or via e-mail in English *or* in Basque.

Any written assignment may be submitted early, but no written work will be accepted late. No exam missed can be made up. Please, coordinate your other commitments with the syllabus throughout the course and consult with me if a conflict should arise. If you must miss a class unexpectedly, please leave a message for me. In the event of an absence caused by an official university-recognized activity, jury duty, or a medical emergency, please provide written documentation in a timely manner.

If you have difficulty with the course for any reason, consult me sooner rather than later so that we can work out strategies to help you complete the course successfully.

Punctual attendance and active participation: 200 points

Punctual attendance at all class meetings is obligatory. There will be a great deal of group work and discussion required in this class. If you are not in attendance, you can contribute neither to your own learning nor to that of your peers. Attendance and participation are graded components of the course. Every student begins with 200 points. For every class missed, a student will lose 50 points. Thus, you can improve your grade by making every effort to attend *every* class.

Active participation in all aspects of the course is essential. Participation does not imply only speaking, but rather actively contributing to the discussion. If you have done the assigned readings and have prepared for each class, it will be all the easier for you to participate.

Assess your own participation periodically during the semester: Are you well prepared for every class? Do you speak up in class to offer your opinions and share your ideas? A good rule of thumb is this: If I have to call on you, you are not participating enough. Rather than waiting for me to call on you, choose the time you feel most comfortable joining in and then seize the opportunity.

Final exam: 200 points

The final exam may be comprised of 1) identification of clips or stills from the lectures, documentaries or films, 2) commentaries on quotes from the articles and documents we have read, 3) short-answer questions, and 4) a choice of essay questions. Be prepared not only to analyze individual documents but also to compare and contrast various papers, authors or times.

The tests will cover all assigned lessons, readings, lectures and class discussions. Evaluation of the exams will be based on accuracy of expression as well as on content.

Project (in drafts and its presentation in class): 400 points

After you have learned about the Basque politics, history and economy, read the books and fragments, assimilated the implications of their socio-historical context, explored what other scholars have to say, I would like you to respond creatively. Create a project related to what you have learned in this class. Then bring it to class and tell us about it. So, after reading and studying the books, reading secondary sources and pondering a while, you will choose a topic, analytical or comparative, and elaborate a thesis statement on one of the topics studied in class. Then, you will develop a paper, 15 to 20 pages in length using at least three secondary sources. Written in English, your paper will conform to the format in the fifth edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. For example, the paper must be typed or computer-generated using a 12-point font, single-spaced, with one inch margins.

Please be advised that the *first* draft of your paper must be your own work. You may not seek help from anyone, neither an instructor, nor a tutor, nor friend, nor relative. Do your best work on your own. Then, on the *second* draft, you may seek help from me or from another professor to improve your paper. You must document any help you receive on a separate acknowledgment page. You must also document any written materials you use to write your paper. Follow the [MLA Handbook](#) for documenting your sources. By following these guidelines, you will produce an academically honest paper.

Your work will be evaluated on the basis of elaboration of a thesis statement, organization of content, compelling argumentation, accuracy of expression, sophistication of style, appropriate use of terminology, and appropriate format.

At the end of the semester, you will present your polished paper to your peers, and we will “publish” a single-spaced, double sided version of the collected works of the class.

The first draft of the paper will be graded on a 50-point scale, as will the presentation of the paper to your peers. The final written version will be graded on a 100-point scale.

Contemporary Basque Politics

PCS 407 / BASQ 407

Dr. Irujo

Lesson 1

Introduction

Human geography. Main aspects of the Basque country

Political Conflict: definition

Lesson 2

Basic cultural and social aspects of Basque politics: language and identity

- Wells, Orson, *Around the World with Orson Wells. Basque Country 1&2*, British Television, 1955.

Lesson 3

“Foruak”, the ancient laws. General description

Main aspects of the ancient laws: the Basque family’s structure and Basque distribution of the property

Lesson 4

Ancient Basque legal institutions

Political ties with the French and Castilian Crowns

- Tuduri, José María, *Chronicle of the Second Carlist War (1872-1876)*, Zauli Films, 1988.

Lesson 5

The 19th Century

The creation of the modern state: origins of the Basque conflict

Basque Political Nationalism: Early Programs

Lesson 6

The 20th century: from Republic to dictatorship

War against Nazism and Fascism: the Basque government in exile (1937-1975) and the cooperation with the U.S. Office of Strategic Services

The French Republic and the Basques in the beginning of the 20th Century

Lesson 7

The Basque political conflict (1960-1975): Dictatorship and the origins of ETA

The Basque political Conflict (1975-1998): The creation of the Basque Autonomous State

Lesson 8

1998. New political formulas: The Lizarra-Garazi Agreement.

Political Institutions of the Basque Country: a nation, two states and a supranational entity, the European Union

Political Parties and Programs. The two blocks: Spanish-French and Basque nationalisms

Lesson 8

The Basque language and the new states (1789-2009)

Lesson 9

Anti-terror laws and human rights in the Basque Country (1975-2009)
Anti-terror laws and contemporary politics after the September 11 attack

Lesson 10

Basque politics: 1998-2009, the Ibarretxe Plan
The debate around the right for self-determination

Lesson 11

The Basque Country and the European Union: the Project of the Europe of the Peoples and its counterparts

Lesson 12

Submission and presentation of the projects in class

Lesson 13

Political conflicts and world-wide peace making movements

Lesson 14

Final global analysis