

**ECO4956 Study Abroad in Economics – Spain**  
**Urbanization, Migration, and Social Challenges (TLO)**  
**May 6-14, 2022**

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## I. READINGS

### **Part 1 – TLO**

- Radcliff, Pamela Beth, *Modern Spain: 1808 to the present*. Hoboken, NJ : John Wiley & Sons, Inc.; 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1405186803
- Garreta-Bochaca, Jordi (Editor), *Immigration into Spain: Evolution and Socio-educational Challenges*. Peter Lang AG, Internationaler Verlag der Wissenschaften; 1st edition (November 17, 2016) ISBN-13 : 978-3034324366
- Martínez-Virto L, Sánchez-Salmerón V. Regional responses to social changes in Spain. Trends and policy challenges for social cohesion. *Regional science policy & practice*. 2021;13(5):1407-1422. doi:10.1111/rsp3.12330
- Selected articles from the Economist (will be posted on Canvas)

### **Part 2 – Sustainability**

- Rhodes, Richard, *Energy: A Human History*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018. ISBN: 978-1501105357.
- Usher, Bruce, *Renewable Energy: A Primer for the Twenty-First Century*. Columbia University Press; 2019. doi:10.7312/ushe18784 ISBN: 978-0231187855.
- ANY travel guidebook of Spain that covers cities we are visiting

## II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course with a trip to Spain offers an opportunity to learn about the social challenges related to the economic development in Spain. Students will gain a deep understanding of the Spanish political, economic, and social history, the impact of immigration and integration policy, the pressing economic and social challenges, and the country's strategy for the future.

The participants will travel to Spain in May, 2022. Students will have the unique opportunity to learn about the local perspectives through discussion with university faculty and students during the trip. In addition, students will witness Spain's embrace of renewable energy and social changes for her future.

The course has several major components:

- (1) Pre-travel meetings (January 2022 – April 2022): Students will attend lectures on related topics and essential travel guides for the visit to Spain. Possible business visits in the Jacksonville area may include:
  - Trailridge Landfill and the biogas to electricity project
  - JEA solar farms in West Jacksonville
  - Rayonier renewable forestry program
  - JEA Northside generating station
- (2) Field study during the travel abroad (May 6 – 14, 2022): In Spain, we will visit Burgos, Madrid, Toledo, and Seville. The business visits in Spain will include various types of energy plants, university, and local businesses.
- (3) Post-travel presentation and essay: Upon returning to UNF, each group of students will organize the information collected during the travel and conduct additional research. During the final meeting, students will have group presentation of their travel experience and submit an essay to reflect on what they learned around the course theme.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

- Describe features in the culture, history, custom, social, business, and economic environment in Spain.
- Identify at least three pressing economic and social challenges Spain currently faces.
- Describe Spain's key economic, labor, and immigration policies and their relationship with the current challenges.
- Describe Spain's energy policy and progression in renewable energy.
- Explain the role of energy policy in Spain's long-term economic strategy.

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Prerequisites:** ANY of the following:

- ECO2013 (*Principles of Macroeconomics*)
- ECO2023 (*Principles of Microeconomics*)
- ECO3701 (Contemporary International Economic Issues)
- Permission by instructors.

**Travel Documents:** Students must have a passport that is valid through the entire trip. Non-US Students are responsible for ensuring that they have the appropriate visas to enter Spain. Course instructors will help students to find information regarding the paperwork needed to obtain these visas.

**Cost:** The travel in Spain costs **\$2,500** per student. Each student is eligible for a TLO scholarship up to **\$805** to offset part of the cost. Please check the CCB webpage for any update of the cost, and the Financial Aid for your eligibility to receive this TLO scholarship. Students must pay the cost of the course in addition to the normal UNF tuition (3 credits). The above cost covers international health insurance, in-country transportation, lodging, breakfasts (when included with the hotel stay), but not airfare. Students need to purchase their own airline tickets.

**Lodging:** Students will normally stay in triple-occupancy (sometimes double-occupancy) rooms, either in hotels or dormitories. Students must be willing to be flexible in this regard. In addition, lodging might not be up to 3-star American hotel standards in some cases. However, we will stay in clean, safe locations.

#### IV. GRADING

Students will be graded based on the following activities:

Stage	Assignment/Activity	% of Final Grade
Pre-travel	Attendance, Participation of lectures and local business visits, and pre-travel presentation	20%
During travel	Participation during travel	25%
During travel	Study Abroad Journal	10%
Post-travel	Participation of post-travel discussion	10%
Post-travel	Essay	20%
Post-travel	Group Presentation*	15%

**Individual grade for group activity:** The grade an individual will receive for a group activity (marked with \*) is the group grade multiplied by an individual effort ratio on that activity. The ratio ranges between 0 and 1, with 1 indicating satisfactory level of effort and 0 no effort. The effort ratio is calculated based on peer assessment, which is conducted at the end of the course.

Improper behavior, described elsewhere in this syllabus, will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Pre-travel Presentation:** Each participant will make a PowerPoint presentation on one of the places we will visit, covering history, cultural significance, and some fun facts if possible. You will be asked to provide an electronic version of your presentation for inclusion on the course website.

**Study Abroad Journal:** The purpose of the journal is to provide you an incentive and a forum for reflecting on your experiences *as they happen*. It is not intended to be merely a “what I did today” account. Therefore, journals will be graded for the quality of your notes from meetings, your observations and the degree and quality of self-examination that it documents. Journals will NOT be graded for organization, grammar, spelling, etc. (Other writing, including correspondence with your international research partners, should be grammatically correct, spell-checked, etc.) Students should write at least once per day in their journals.

**Essay:** The research essay will be graded for content and style. One hard copy of the essay and an electronic copy are required.

**Group Presentation:** All presentations must utilize PowerPoint and be well-organized, informative, concise, and coherent. In addition to content, presentation style and clarity will be graded. You will be requested to provide an electronic version of your presentation for inclusion on the course website.

**Grading Scale:** Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale: 94%~100%=A, 90%~93%=A-, 87%~89%=B+, 84%~86%=B, 80%~83%=B-, 75%~79%=C+, 70%~74%=C, 60%~70%=D, <60%=F.

**Policy on Late Assignments:** Any assignment turned in late will carry a penalty of 25% per day (starting at the beginning of class and including weekends and holidays) not per class.

#### V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Working together is a wonderful way to learn, and your instructor encourages it. Because of the nature of this study abroad, we encourage you to work with others in this class on all assignments, including those in which grades are assigned to individuals rather than teams. Discussing your impressions, reactions, and observations

before, during, and after the study abroad travel will help you to make sense of them, as well as help you to become more observant during the progress of the course.

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own. Plagiarism includes taking phrases, sentences, or paragraphs from someone else's writing and using them in your own writing without providing true attribution of their source. Avoiding plagiarism, of course, does not mean neglecting to conduct solid research. It is appropriate to read what various scholars and experts have learned about an issue before you form your own conclusions about it. However, you must ensure that you understand the literature. At a minimum, students should rephrase the literature's content, rather than quoting it verbatim. This practice also helps to ensure student understanding of the issue, as you cannot write intelligently unless you do know your subject. Another way to avoid plagiarism is to ensure that you utilize a large number of sources, so that your knowledge goes beyond that of any particular book or article.

The internet now provides students with the opportunity to purchase term papers and other work. Turning any paper or project or making a presentation that you did not create is a violation of academic integrity. Tools exist for faculty to check whether students have submitted work available on-line.

Regarding these and all other issues of academic integrity, students are also expected to adhere to the code of conduct as outlined in the UNF catalog. Anyone caught violating the academic integrity code will be disciplined fully.

#### VI. ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with disabilities who would like to request reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services to participate in this study abroad experience should contact Student Accessibility Services ("SAS"). SAS is located in Building 57, Room 1500; phone 620-2769. You may also visit SAS's website at <http://www.unf.edu/drc/>. SAS will engage in an interactive dialogue with students to determine what options may be available to assist them. SAS may also encourage a meeting with the student, the responsible instructor for the study abroad experience, and SAS to ascertain whether the student will be able to participate in all activities of the desired study abroad program, with or without accommodations or auxiliary aids and services, or if the student can participate in other activities that meet study objectives as an alternative.

Military and veteran students who would like to discuss VA educational benefits or assistance regarding the experience may contact the Military and Veterans Resource Center in Building 2, Room 1100, by phone at (904) 620- 5131, or by visit the MVRC website at <http://www.unf.edu/military-veterans/>.

In the United States, the ADA requires public accommodations to be accessible to individuals with disabilities, such as through access ramps, entrances of designated widths, and so forth. Please note that the ADA does not apply to foreign countries and they may not have similar public access requirements. This could result in physical or other barriers to access in foreign locales (e.g., medical care, lodgings, restaurants, businesses and other buildings, services or facilities). Students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to research the access and service limitations of the locales to be visited. These issues may also be discussed in conjunction with the instructor for the study abroad experience and SAS.

#### VII. FREE TIME ACTIVITIES:

When structured program activities are finished for the day, you may visit sites/areas near our hotel. If you wish to visit a location that is NOT near our hotel, you will need to get the advance approval of the Faculty-Leader. Remember that the "buddy system" must be followed at all times if you go out separate from the group. You should be sure to exchange cell phone number with your Faculty Leader(s), and they will give you theirs.

### VIII. NON-PROGRAM TRAVEL:

The approved travel itinerary is attached to this itinerary. If you wish to make any personal travel plans during the official UNF activity abroad in addition to the identified program travel, you must make such a request to your Faculty-Leaders and the International Center. Important: Students may travel anywhere they wish before or after the officially approved UNF international activity if a waiver has been completed and is approved. Please contact the International Center to inquire about the waiver process. In contrast, travel during an officially approved UNF international activity may only occur as pre- approved by the Faculty-Leader and the University administration.

### IX. SAFETY ABROAD:

Your safety is a top priority of your study abroad leader and of the University of North Florida. Besides the information you reviewed in the Safety Abroad video and in pre-departure class meetings, here are a few tips for staying safe while you are abroad:

1. There are places in Jacksonville that you would not visit alone or at night. Similarly, there are places that you should avoid in every major city abroad. There might even be entire regions of the country that you should not enter. See the “Free Time” section of the syllabus for more information on this. If you wish to make any travel plans (during the official UNF activity abroad) that is different or in addition to the identified program travel, you must make such a request to your faculty leader.
2. Travel only in groups. Use the buddy system at all times, even if you are going to the restroom. You will be responsible for keeping an eye on your partner and watching out for him/her. In addition, faculty leaders should know where you are at all times. Do not leave the group without telling a faculty leader. Students have missed business and cultural visits simply because they wandered away from the group.

Pickpockets thrive in tourist zones, both abroad and in the U.S. If you carry a wallet, put it in your front pocket and keep your hand on it, or use a money belt instead. If you carry a purse or backpack, always keep it closed and carried in front of you whenever possible. While seated at a restaurant or café, keep your bag on your lap.

3. Keep a copy of the photo/information page of your passport stored in a safe place that is separate from your luggage. It is very difficult to get a passport replaced quickly without that page. Your faculty leaders will also carry a copy for you, and you will leave one on file at UNF in case of emergency. 4. Review the Department of State’s international travel webpage. Here you will find tips for safety abroad, instructions for enrolling in STEP, and even country-specific information for your destination(s).

Please review the Department of State’s country information for your destination(s), particularly noting the “Crime” section, as it refers to any cities or attractions you plan to visit, at <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html>. Students must use the “buddy system” at all times, and stay aware of their surroundings and personal belongings.

### X. MEDICAL DISCLOSURES:

We encourage you to disclose to and advise your Faculty Leader (via the study abroad application) of any chronic or serious health care condition that you may have so that the Faculty Leader is apprised of the issue and can take appropriate action on your behalf if a need for medical care arises while abroad. Please be advised that any condition that you disclose will be kept confidential and only shared with necessary University representatives to facilitate your safe participation in the study abroad activity.

## XI. CONDUCT:

The University of North Florida is committed to integrity, respect, accountability and innovation. These values serve as the foundation for the Student Code of Conduct. The UNF jurisdiction under the Code of Conduct includes conduct that occurs on UNF premises or anywhere off-campus or the internet, including study abroad locations. Anybody may file an incident report, including the UNF Faculty Leader, for any conduct they believe adversely affects the University community. Students are encouraged to participate in the conduct process, but hearings can move forward if a student chose not to respond. Please remember: Your actions and behaviors reflect UNF while you are abroad!

Also, be aware that if you engage in illegal/criminal activity in another country, you will be subject to local law (in that country) and not U.S. law. Being a U.S. (or other national) citizen will not provide you with special protection.

## XII. CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to remain polite during classroom and in-country discussions. Even during heated debates, you must treat your instructors, classmates and the locals with respect. Violation of this policy will result in a reduction of your class participation grade that, if the violation is significant enough, could result in a failing grade for the class. For example, you should not make derogatory remarks about your classmates' ideas. Instead, explain why you think they are wrong, backing up your viewpoint with sound analysis and refraining from personal attacks. Another example is being quiet while someone else (including your instructor!) has the floor.

You may *not* use cell phones in class. If you bring them to class, they *must* be turned off. If there is an emergency situation that requires you to have an active telephone or pager in class, you *must* notify the instructor *in advance* that your equipment will be turned on. In such cases, cell phones should be set to vibrate, not to sound an alarm. Violation of this policy will result in your being asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the period. Repeated violations will be reported to the appropriate UNF authorities and will result in disciplinary action. Analogous guidelines apply to business visits abroad.

## XII. Etiquette ABROAD

While you are abroad, you are representing not only yourself, but also the Coggin College of Business, the University of North Florida, and the United States. Any interaction that you have with the citizens of the country you are visiting can leave a lasting impression, so you are expected to make those impressions as positive as possible. Citizens of every nation are proud of their heritage. Therefore, when you are abroad, strive not only to be aware of cultural differences, but also to experience and appreciate them. Give local foods and customs a try, especially if they are unfamiliar to you. If you are being hosted by residents, make every effort to demonstrate that you are enjoying their cuisine (even though you might not be).

You may be surprised by the times that shops and restaurants open and close in other countries. Some shops may escort you out as they close at 2:00 pm; some restaurants may not open for dinner service until 9:00 pm. These types of differences may seem inconvenient when you first arrive, but you can prepare yourself by paying attention to pre-departure information, and researching local customs on your own before you leave the U.S. If necessary, you can then make plans to address these differences ahead of time, e.g., having snack food in your hotel room if dinner starts late.

During business site visits, you should behave in a professional and businesslike manner. Business casual attire is typically appropriate. Be inquisitive and show your interest in the host company, but remain respectful at all times. Always use formal forms of address (e.g., Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.) unless you are specifically invited to use a first name.

This is only the tip of the etiquette iceberg, and you will be discussing expectations specific to this program during class meetings. The bottom line is that you will gain more benefits from the study abroad, be more

productive, and enjoy the experience more if you are prepared: learn what you may encounter before you leave home and be open-minded and culturally sensitive while you are abroad.

### XIII. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

The following table lists topics, required readings, assignments, exams, etc., by date. All reading must be completed *before* next class begins! Be prepared to *discuss* the material.

#### *Schedule While in the United States*

(TBA) All meetings and visits are mandatory. These meetings and visits are usually scheduled on Fridays. Detailed schedules will be announced in early January.

#### *Schedule During the Spain Trip*

##### **Proposed Itinerary Abroad (subject to change)**

Friday May 6

Depart Jax for Madrid

Saturday May 7

Land in Barajas airport, Madrid

Overland bus travel to Burgos

Cultural tour of Burgos

Sleep in Burgos

Sunday May 8

Business visit: wind project near Burgos

Visit University of Burgos. Possible presentation on renewable energy, climate change and energy policy in Spain

Cultural tour near Burgos: TBA

Sleep in Burgos

Monday May 9

Business visit: renewable energy project TBA

Overland bus travel to Madrid

Cultural tour of Madrid

Sleep in Madrid

Tuesday May 10

Business visit: possible visit to Iberdrola, Enel, or Abengoa energy company installations

Overland bus travel to Toledo

Cultural tour of Toledo

Return to Madrid (bus)

Sleep in Madrid

Wednesday May 11

Rail travel from Madrid to Sevilla

Cultural tour of Sevilla

Sleep in Sevilla

Thursday May 12

Business visit: Solucar solar plant near Sevilla

Sleep in Sevilla

Friday May 13

Make-up day/ Free morning

Rail travel from Sevilla to Madrid

Saturday May 14

Bus to Madrid airport

Return to US

Suggested Free Time Activities

**Burgos**

Cathedral visit

Museum of human evolution

Monastery Las Huelgas

St Mary's Arch/Historic center of Burgos

Castle overlook (Mirador del Castillo)

Espolon Walk (Paseo de Espolón)

Island Park (Parque de la Isla)

**Madrid**

Prado national museum

Santiago Bernabeu football (soccer) stadium

Retiro Park (Parque del Retiro)

Reina Sofia national museum of art

National museum of archeology

Plaza Mayor

Gran Vía

**Sevilla**

Royal Alcázar

Cathedral

Plaza España

Giralda Tower (Torre Giralda)

Maria Luisa Park (Parque María Luisa)

La Macarena Basilica

Museum of Bellas Artes