

Professor Silvia Z. Mitchell, Ph.D.

Email: mitch131@purdue.edu
Office: University Hall 308
OFFICE HOURS
T-TH 4:15 to 6:00 and by appointment

Course Description:

This course surveys the history of Imperial Spain from the unification of the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon in 1469 until the end of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1714. We begin with an examination of Spain's rise from a mere agglomeration of kingdoms to an empire of global proportions. We will devote the next portion of the course to study the imperial system that developed under the Habsburgs. In the later part of the course, we will immerse ourselves in the politics and culture of the seventeenth century and examine the monarchy during its so-called decline: a period in which political, economic, and demographic crises coincided with a Golden Age in cultural achievements in the realms of literature, theater, architecture, and painting.

By the end of the course, students will be able to place the history of Spain in the early modern era within broad pan-European and Atlantic contexts. They will understand what made the Spanish imperial system successful and, likewise, what were its inherent weaknesses. Students will also become familiar with and appreciate the substantial cultural output of the period.

Required Texts:

John H. Elliott, *Imperial Spain*, 1469-1716 (Penguin Books, any edition would do).

Peggy K. Liss, Isabel the Queen: Life and Times, Revised Edition (University of Pennsylvania, 2004).

Alexandra Parma Cook and Noble David Cook, *Good Faith and Truthful Ignorance: A Case of Transatlantic Bigamy* (Duke University, 1991).

Assignments and Evaluation:

- 1. Course Participation. Will be based on weekly discussion and/or short assignments. Contributions will be evaluated on quality as well as frequency. Asking good questions about the readings is a perfectly acceptable way to contribute. Bring the reading assignments and your notes to class.
- **2. Three Exams**: **two Midterm and a Final.** Exam questions will be based on the lectures, readings, and discussions. The midterms will take place during a regular class time. The final will be longer and administered during final week. There will be a comprehensive review before each exam and questions will be given in advance.
- 3. Culture of the Spanish Golden Age Project: Students will investigate an aspect of Spanish Golden Age culture that appeals to them in a personal way. You will produce a 2- to 3-page paper on the cultural artifact/topic of your choice and present to the rest of the class. Presentations will be grouped according to themes and thus there will be a little bit of group planning. Specific guidelines and grading criteria will be given in advance as you prepare for this task.

Grade Distribution and Due Dates:

Assignment		Weighted Value	Due Date
Exams	Exam 1	15 %	February 7
	Exam 2	15 %	March 9
	Exam 3	15 %	During final exam
			week. TBA
Class Participation	CP 1	10%	By Feb. 7
	CP 2	10 %	By March 9
	CP 3	10 %	By end of the class
Culture of the		25 %	April 25-27
Golden Age			
Project			
	Total	100%	

Students must complete <u>all</u> assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Grading Scale

$$100-98 = A+$$
 $97-93 = A$ $92-90 = A 89-88 = B+$ $87-83 = B$ $82-80 = B 79-78 = C+$ $77-73 = C$ $72-70 = C 69-68 = D+$ $67-63 = D$ $62-60 = D-$

Expectations and Policies

You are expected to attend class, read the material, participate actively in discussions, and complete the required assignments when they are due.

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade. I expect you to arrive to class on time. If you are late, however, I would rather you came in than missed class.

Late work will be penalized. Extensions will be granted only under compelling circumstances. Likewise, makeup exams will be allowed only in the case of a documented emergency. You should communicate with me as early as possible if facing a personal or family emergency that may prevent you from coming to class, completing the assignment, or missing an exam.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism or any sort of cheating will result in a failing grade for the entire course and, likely, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Cheating can take many forms, including, but not limited to, passing someone else's work for one's own, copying from another student's work during an exam, or using unauthorized material. Familiarize yourself with Purdue's policy on Academic Integrity. http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php

Disclaimer:

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted on Blackboard once the course resumes or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.

Course Schedule

January 10	Introductions
	Part I: The Birth of Spain
January 12	Medieval Castile and Aragon Liss, Chapter 1
January 17	Inheritance Laws: Women and Royal succession Liss, Chapters 2 to 5
January 19	An Unequal Union of Crowns Liss, Cowans, "King Ferdinand, Marriage Concessions, 1469," 7-9 Liss, Chapters 6 to 9
January 24	The Inquisition Liss, Chapters 10 to 13

January 26 1492: Reconquest, Conquest, and Expulsion Liss, Chapters 14 to 17 January 31 Catholic Monarch's Marriage Diplomacy Liss, Chapter 18 to the end of the book February 2 Discussion and review for the exam February 7 Exam 1 Part II: The Rise of the Habsburg Empire February 9 The Advent of the Habsburgs: Emperor Charles V Elliott, 135-169, Start reading, Cook and Cook February 14 The Habsburg System under Philip II Keep reading Cook and Cook Elliott, 181-184, 199-201 February 16 Annexation of Portugal Keep reading Cook and Cook February 21 One Monarch, One Empire, One Sword Elliott, 249-260 February 23 The Crisis of the 1590s Elliott, 285-300 February 28 Discussion of Cook and Cook A Story of Love and Betrayal Cook and Cook March 2 **NO CLASS MEETING** Keep reading, Cook and Cook, 1-67 March 7 Culture of Golden Age Project and Review for the Exam March 9 Exam 2 **SPRING VACATION** March 13-17 Part III: Spain in the Seventeenth Century March 21 The Duke of Lerma and The Pax Hispanica

Page **4** of **5**

	Cowans, "Martín González de Cellorigo, the Restoration of the Republic," 133-140
March 23	The Count-Duke of Olivares and the Union of Arms Cowans, "Olivares's Instruction on Government," 152-157 (on Blackboard
March 28	The Planet King Elliott, Philip IV: Prisoner of Ceremony (on Blackboard) Elliott, 321-333
March 30	The Crisis of the 1640s Cowans, "Catalan Grievances," "Philip IV's Decree Pardoning the Catalan Rebels," On Blackboard
April 4	Brides and Heiresses Reading TBA
April 6	The Resilience of the Spanish Monarchy Storrs, excerpts, first half (on Blackboard)
April 11	From the Peace of the Pyrenees to the Independence of Portugal 1659-1668
April 13	The Minority of Carlos II: Geopolitical Considerations Mitchell, TBA; Mitchell, "Habsburg Motherhood: The Power of Mariana of Austria" (on Blackboard)
April 18	Carlos II: History and Myth Storrs, excerpts, second half (on Blackboard)
April 20	The War of the Spanish Succession
April 25	Presentations
April 27	Presentations Review for the exam

Final Exam TBA