This course studies the history of the Iberian cultural sphere. This multi-national and multi-ethnic area originates in the late-fifteenth century, with the discovery, exploration, and eventual colonial exploitation, by the emerging nation-state of Spain, of what is now known as Latin America. Other areas, such as certain regions in and adjacent to Africa, were also incorporated into this system. The many regions constituting this cultural sphere are largely defined by their shared history and by the Peninsular languages—Spanish and Portuguese—adopted by and/or imposed on the many peoples that fell under the cultural, social, economic, and political authority of Spain and Portugal. The course focuses, first of all, on the Peninsular background to the foundation of the Spanish and Portuguese imperial and colonial systems. We will see that the history of such systems entails the study of the expansions and contractions of a given national community which is self-defined as "civilized", and which imposes its model of civilization on territories it controls or influences. This control can be direct, as in COLONIAL SYSTEMS, or indirect, as in countries or regions within a sphere of influence. When such spheres are defined by language, shared traditions, and various modes of cultural practice, we may also speak of CULTURAL DOMAINS. When the sphere is more indirectly controlled, either economically, administratively, politically, or diplomatically, a term often invoked is HEGEMONY. This course focuses on the geopolitical, social, and cultural history of the Spanish-speaking areas of the Iberian sphere, showing how they transition from the earlier colonial phase into the modern era of separate Spanish-speaking nation states, each with its own specific post-colonial history, and each with a separate, on-going relationship with the system founded in and operating out of the Iberian Peninsula.

This course carries the GLOBAL CULTURES flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

GRADING SYSTEM

§ 4 quizzes [4 X 5%]: 10%
§ 1 mid-term exam: 20% [with take-home essay component]
§ 1 3-page term paper prospectus: 15%
§ 1 8-page final term paper: 25%
§ attendance/participation: 5% [see note # 1, below]
§ 1 final exam: 25%

NOTE 1: Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance is taken at 15 minutes into the hour. Three unexcused absences over-all are allowed. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 1% deduction from the final course grade average, up to 5%.
NOTE 2: Exams & quizzes are all open-book, and include brief ID's, terminological definitions, map exercises, and essay questions [mid-term & final]. There will be 2 essay questions (350 words each) on both mid-term and final exam. **BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED FOR IN-CLASS PORTION OF MID-TERM & FOR FINAL EXAM.**

NOTE 3: "Excellent" writing means 2 things: 1. error-free Spanish; 2. an expository essay that defends a thesis (i.e., that proves a point). Mere BOOK REPORTS do not constitute excellent writing. For purposes of this class, 1 PAGE = 250 words.

**TEXTS:**


2. Electronic reader of selected passages.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.