

## *Exploring Andalusia Study Abroad!*

SPAN 4990

(June 28 – August 8 2015)

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Class location	Pedro Almodovar's Room (Club costa Nerja)
Meeting times	Mondays 7:00pm-9:00pm & T,W,TH 3:00-4.00 pm

### **Textbook required:**

Lantis, Jeffrey S & DuPlaga, Jessica. *The Global Classroom: An Essential Guide to Study Abroad*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, 20110.

### **Required Readings provided in class:**

Cushner, Kenneth. *Human Diversity in Action: Developing Multicultural Competencies for the Classroom*. Austin: McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages, 2005.

Nevadomski Berdan, Stacie. *These are Global Times*. A Student Guide to Study Abroad. New York: Institute of International Education, 2013.

Nevadomski Berdan, Stacie. *Using Study Abroad to Showcase Your Global Growth and Learning*. A Student Guide to Study Abroad. New York: Institute of International Education, 2013.

Nieto, Sonia. *Culture and Education*. Language, Culture and Teaching: Critical Perspective. New York: Routledge, 2001.

### **Description:**

This mandatory course will provide students with the skills to fully benefit for their international educational experience in Andalusia. Students will become true global thinkers by gaining cultural competence. With this course, students will also learn how language and culture are invariably intertwined, and the importance to apply critical thinking skills and academic knowledge/concepts to resolve real daily life situations. Students will engage in reflection, which incorporates self-assessment and analysis of their learning experience, how they have learned it, the impact on their personal and professional growth, and how to apply that learning in other situations or contexts such as adjusting successfully to life outside of one's own culture, adapting one's behavior to interact effectively with those from the host culture, and accepting that one's own world view is not universal.

### **Course Objectives:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to exhibit a high degree of cultural intelligence, a sharper understanding of their own culture and how it impacts their behavior in a multicultural setting, be able to interpret behavior, attitudes and communication

styles of people from different cultures correctly; and they will become familiarized with the key cultural characteristics in *Al-Andalus*, starting with a basic knowledge of the history, culture and political interaction between the Arab world and Spain, where Spain and Morocco will actually be our primary open textbook and our living laboratory. Students will gain an understanding of the meaning of culture and cultural differences, the components of cultural intelligence, the key values and concepts, cultural characteristics of Spain and Andalusia, non-verbal communication, the cross-cultural communication process, verbal language, codes and conventions, decision-making models across cultures, understanding and solving ethical dilemmas, mindfulness and behavioral skills, etc.

### **Teaching methods:**

This course includes lectures, case discussions, group assignments, in class activities, and professional visits. Learning in this course requires the student's constructive participation and active involvement.

Thus, it is essential to attend all group activities inside and outside of classes. The corporate visits will expose the participants to different aspects of the class and will highlight the practical relevance of the concepts learned. The visits will be accompanied by individual or group assignments.

### **Assessment:**

1. Class Participation	5%
2.-Quizzes	30%
3. Journal	20%
4. Final Reflection Paper	20%
5. Final Presentation	10%
6. Final Written Exam	10%
7. Decorum and Appropriate Attire	5%

### **Attendance and Class Participation:**

The expectation is that you come to each class with that week's **reading assignment completed**, ready to discuss all parts of it. Participation in class discussion is an important and vital part of this course. Discussing and processing the weekly topics, understanding and contributing various points of view will make an impact of your study abroad experience.

### **Journal:**

Record at least 40 entries in your journal. Entries should be no shorter than a page, must have date and time and must be written in Spanish/Spanglish or gringoñol for those students in beginning or intermediate classes. A list of questions to be respond in the form of an entry will be given to you during our first meeting. Students who are receiving credits for 3000 level courses must write all entries in Spanish. Please **do not** make a list of the things you do every



day, but rather write about how your day was unique. Other topics you could write about: food, new friends and family, everyday interactions, fun events, visits, excursions, or practically anything you want to share and remember about Nerja or Spain. Your new professors, classmates, your impressions about your trip before and after, your feelings or concerns prior your trip...etc... You will have tons of new topics to write on your journal: so, be creative!

### **Quizzes**

For every excursion we take, you will receive a Spanish brochure with important facts about the places we will visit. You also will receive a list of specific questions regarding the history and culture of the city or place. You will have to find out all the answers for these questions. It is your responsibility to answer those questions during our visits, since you will be quizzed upon the next day of class. Many of the answers will be part of our tourist guide explanations and/or part of your previous lectures and seminars. These quizzes will be in Spanish. You will also have quizzes from your reading assignments.

### **Final Reflection Paper:**

This paper must answer the following questions: Has this experience transformed your view of the world, your country, of others, or even yourself? What changes in your perspective have taken place? How and why do you think this has occurred? What could have helped you to prepare yourself better to deal with feelings of discomfort? Were you able to work through them? what would it be necessary for future students going abroad to know before they depart? Could this experience be described as a holistic educational plan? How? What have you learned about your own culture? (minimum of 5 full pages, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1" margins). Students receiving credits for Intermediate II and other upper level classes must write the paper in Spanish.

### **Final Presentation:**

During our last day of classes, students will have a 10 minute final presentation to the class on one cultural component that you reached beyond the text and classroom discussions. You will be graded for Creativity 25%, Fluency 25%, Pronunciation 25%, and Grammar 25%.

### **Decorum and Appropriate attire:**

As a student enrolled in the Exploring Andalusia Study Abroad Program, students must understand that they represent the University of North Georgia and the United States while traveling in Spain and Morocco. Students are expected to behave appropriately during their participation in the program. Behavior while traveling could affect course grades significantly. In addition students could be asked to leave the group and return home **at their own expense in case:**

- Violate any local or national laws
- Willingly damage or destroy property
- Threaten or willingly injure a fellow participant or member of the general public

- Sell, use or purchase illegal drugs
- Become drunk or disorderly or engage in disorderly conduct.
- Fail to participate in scheduled group activities and seminars
- Leave the group for an extended period without letting the faculty coordinator or faculty assistant know where I am going.
- Not wear appropriate dress while visiting religious and cultural sites.

Students will be subject to the same rules and regulations off-campus as on-campus, as outlined in the University of North Georgia Student Handbook. Lesser infractions, such as tardiness to class or excursions will initially be dealt with through a written warning. Subsequent violations will result in the termination of participation in the program.

If students violate these rules, they will be subject to expulsion from the program and will face possible disciplinary action upon returning to University of North Georgia. If students are sent home due to a violation of this contract, they will be sent home at their expense, in accordance with University policy. Students must show respect, courtesy and consideration at all times with peers and professors; punctuality and attentiveness also do count.

#### **Proper Attire for Morocco:**

Dress modestly first. A long skirt or pants are **mandatory** and most appropriate. Especially in rural areas, people may be offended by clothes that do not fully cover parts of the body considered “private”, including both legs and shoulders. Wearing a traditional robe with a headscarf can help blend in; inexpensive djellabas are available in many local shops. (Even if men see that you're a foreigner, they may assume you have been in the country for a long time if you're wearing local traditional clothing). This may help to receive fewer curious gazes. **Cover your head with a headscarf** for added modesty. Though not necessary, this can help you blend in with local women. **If you have blonde or red hair, a headscarf can help you avoid unwanted attention from men** and will show your respect for the local culture.

*\*The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the course of the semester as needed to meet the learning goals of this class. Any changes will be discussed during class periods and will be made with advanced notice if deadlines or other critical components are affected*

### **LIVING WITH A HOST FAMILY: CULTURAL AND PRACTICAL ADVICE**

So, you are going to live with a host family? For many students, this thought evokes both **exhilaration** and **anxiety**. On the one hand, it is exciting to meet new people and to learn firsthand about the culture. But it can also be frightening—questions such as “*What will they be like?*” and “*What will they feed me?*” as well as other questions. My advice is intended to assist you in making the most of your homestay by building on that excitement and by easing the anxiety you may be feeling.



Before going any further, rest assured that there is nothing abnormal or unusual about feeling anxious or nervous before meeting your host family. To some degree, every student before you has been apprehensive in one way or another. As well, your host family may be just as scared to meet you –after all, they are inviting you-a complete stranger- into their home. Together, you will overcome that anxiety and learn from each other. We are confident that your experience in Nerja will be enjoyable and filled with lasting memories. Like many of our alumni, you may keep in touch with your host family over the years, and you may even have the opportunity to visit each other again one day -either in Nerja or in your home!

### **EACH HOST FAMILY IS UNIQUE**

As in the US, families in Nerja may share common characteristics; but, each one has its own distinct structure, habits, etc. Some families may be single parent households. Some families have children, while others do not. Your host siblings may be your age, or they may be younger or older. Your host family's home may be a small house or a large one, or it could be an apartment. Keep in mind **that every family is unique**; consequently, every student's experience also will be unique. Resist temptations you might feel to compare your host family with those of other students you meet at ESCUELA DE IDIOMAS NERJA (particularly those comparisons involving judgments). Such comparisons are unfair and may be detrimental to your experience.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is the key for building a successful relationship with your host family and helping you to adapt more quickly to Spanish culture. It is natural that, at first, you may not be able to understand everything that your family is saying (even advanced students may require an adjustment period before becoming comfortable with accents). However, it is important to try to communicate with your host parents and siblings as much as possible. Your family will appreciate your efforts. Your host family wants to get to know you. They want to know if you are doing okay, if you are comfortable, if you need something, how your classes are going, your trips, what you notice that seems different in Spain, etc. **TALK TO THEM!!!** Remember that you are here **to learn Spanish language and Spanish culture**. Time will fly by faster than you can imagine! Therefore, take advantage of every moment you are here and build a friendship with your family. If there is anything you do not understand, something you are not sure of, or if you have any doubts, questions or problems, please do not hesitate to ask your host family. By communicating with them, you can avoid misunderstandings later on.

### **GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS**

In Spain, it is extremely important that you always **greet every person** when you enter a room and acknowledge each person again before you leave. I cannot emphasize how important these greetings are; they will go a long way toward your **being accepted into the culture**. Greetings are not made verbally or with an impersonal wave of the hand (as are common in the USA), even to a large group. Men typically shake hands with each other. Between a man and a woman, and between two women, a light "kiss" on the person's right cheek (or both cheeks) is customary (more accurately, this involves touching cheeks and making a brief kissing sound in the air).

## **EMOTIONS AND PERSONAL SPACE**

In general, you may find that many Spaniards are **expressive**. When conversing, they may use lots of gestures and facial expressions to display feelings and to emphasize a point. You may also notice that they make eye contact with each other to a greater degree than you may be accustomed. When having a conversation with a Spaniard, it is possible you may feel that your personal space is being invaded in general; many people in Spain and other Latin American countries tend to stand very close to each other (this will be especially noticeable to you, because here in the US personal space extends outward about 2-3 feet). Also, it is common to place a hand on the shoulder or arm of the person with whom you are speaking.

When standing in line or walking down a crowded street, do not be surprised if people brush past you without apologizing or excusing themselves. This should not be considered rudeness, rather, it exemplifies a concept of personal space that is very different from your own.

## **BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR FAMILY'S CONCERNS FOR YOUR SAFETY AND WELL BEING**

(This is especially relevant for female students). Don't be surprised if they ask you questions about your schedule, when you are planning to come home, how late you might be out, if you are hungry/cold/hot/comfortable, etc. Remember, you are their host child, and they are concerned about your well-being.

## **SPEAK ONLY SPANISH IN FRONT OF YOUR FAMILY**

When you are with friends from UNG or the Escuela de Idiomas Nerja, please refrain from speaking English or any other language other than Spanish in front of your family. This is considered rude since they may not be able to understand what you are saying and likely will presume that you are talking about them.

## **WHAT TO CALL YOUR HOST PARENTS**

You can start out by calling them "*señor*" and "*señora*" which shows respect. However, don't be surprised if they ask you to call them by their first names.

## **YOUR BEDROOM**

It does not matter how big or small is your temporary space; it is common knowledge families take pride in a neat and clean house. Be sure to make your bed every day and keep your room neat.

## **SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Keep your valuables (money, passport) at home in a secure place (drawer, suitcase). Never leave your belongings unattended.

## **MEALTIME**

In Spanish culture lunch is the largest and most important meal of the day. It is common for families to eat their meals together, and it is expected that every member of the household (and



sometimes extended family members) be home at mealtime. What you may consider as merely an occasion to stuff food in your mouth is considered family time in many households. Because of this, the entire family often will wait for every person to come home before beginning to eat. For these reasons, it is of paramount importance to be courteous and arrive home on time for every lunch. Be sure to communicate delays or changes to your schedule in advanced. One of the most common frustrations for a host family is that their host child has not let them know if s/he is running late or simply not coming home for a meal, and the family has been left waiting (not to mention concerned). Again, it is crucial to call/tell your host family ahead of time to let them know if you will not be making it home for a meal.

### **Final Thoughts**

- \*Keep an open mind and be flexible.
  - \*Be sensitive to cultural differences. Allow yourself time to adjust to your family and your host culture.
  - \*Follow your family rules and understand the reasons behind these regulations (IE: concern about your safety and well-being).
  - \*If you do not understand something, ask. This will help you to avoid misunderstandings later on.
  - \*Let your family know what you need and what you like or you don't like (especially with the food). Some families will try to please you by making something they might think you are comfortable eating (pizza, French fries, etc). If you don't like it TELL THEM NICELY that you would prefer to try authentic Spanish food.
  - \*Observe and participate actively with your family in the culture.
- Your host family has received an orientation and is prepared to welcome you into their home. Their top priority is to help you adjust to, and feel comfortable in, your new environment. Ask your host family things you need to know like how to get from your home to ESCUELA DE IDIOMAS, NERJA, You will received a house key, they will let you know when the meals are served, how the laundry system will operate in your home, and other household and family rules. If you have any questions about how something works, please ask your family first. We all want you to have a successful homestay.

**To be able to succeed in your class at *Escuela de Idiomas Nerja*, please keep in mind that you must:**

- \*Attend classes every day always arriving on time,
- \*Do your homework,
- \*Maintain a good attitude in the classroom. Remember: your professors might be/look younger than your professors here, but they still should be respected exactly as your professors at UNG.
- \*Participate in all class activities,
- \*Study for all your exams,
- \*Attend all excursions,
- \*Attend all the *seminars, visitas* and *cine español*,
- \*Turn in your journal after arrival to the USA. The Journal should be in my office (Dunlap 314 A) no later than three days after our return. You could also leave it with the Modern Language

Administrative Assistant, Ms. Nancy Schwartz (Dunlap 320) by that date. No late work will be accepted.

Calendar Summer 2015 (June 27th to August 8th)

L	M	M	J	V	S	D
					DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL FAMILIAS
CLASES 9-2:00pm BIENVENIDA Club del libro	Clases Cine Voleibol en la playa	Clases & Kayak	Clases Seminario: España ayer y hoy	Clases Seminario: Diversidad humana en acción	Excursión a Córdoba	
CLASES 9-2:00pm & Club del libro	Clases Cine Voleibol en la playa	Visita a las cuevas de Nerja	Clases Seminario: Fiestas tradicionales	Clases Viaje a Marruecos	Marruecos	Marruecos
CLASES 9-2:00pm & Club del libro	Clases Cine Voleibol en la playa	Clases visita a Frigiliana	Clases Seminario: Flamenco	Clases Seminario: La Alhambra	Excursión a Granada	
CLASES & 9-2:00pm Club del libro	Clases Cine Voleibol en la playa	Clases Clase de cocina	Clases Seminario: Al-Andalus	Clases Seminario: Cultura española	Excursión a Málaga	
Clases & Club del libro	Clases Cine Voleibol en la playa	Clases Visita a los Cahorros	Clases Seminario: Música española	Clases Seminario: Andalucía hoy		
Clases & Club del libro	Clases Cine Voleibol en la playa	Clases Seminario: El Cine español	Clases Seminario: La literatura española	Clases Visita a las Alpujarras	Entrega de Certificados	Return to ATL

**Please note:**

A) Spanish Language classes are from 9am to 1:30 pm (15 min. break) the first, third, fifth and seventh week; and from 3:00pm to 7:30 pm the second, fourth and sixth week.

B) Week excursions and seminars may vary according with Escuela de Idiomas Nerja Calendar.