

## **UNIVERSITAS CASTELLAE INTERNATIONAL COURSES IN VALLADOLID – SPAIN**

### **Why Valladolid?**

The city of Valladolid is famous for the purity of its spoken "Castellano", or Castilian Spanish. Founded in the Middle Ages, it came to be the nation's capital during the rule of the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella. It functioned as head of the Empire for many years before the Royal Court moved permanently to Madrid in the 17th century. Today, it is the largest regional capital in Europe. Valladolid is known for its winding, narrow streets and secluded Medieval patios, yet it is a modern city, with a population of nearly 400,000.

Valladolid is a city of rich and well-celebrated historical and cultural heritage. The city offers a diverse array of museums, including the world famous National Religious Sculpture Museum, situated within the splendid frame of the Colegio de San Gregorio; the Oriental Museum; the Contemporary Art Museum and the Wine Museum of Peñafiel. The Cathedral of Valladolid and the churches of San Miguel, La Cruz and Las Angustias conserve many objects of great artistic value, while the churches of San Pablo and La Antigua are true architectural treasures in themselves. Valladolid offers a full program of recreational and cultural activities (ceramics workshops, theatre, regional dance, concerts, performances...). It hosts the Cinema International Festival (SEMINCI) in October, and it has one of the most impressive Holy Weeks in the world.

### **Universitas Castellae**

Universitas Castellae is a private institution, dedicated to investigation, which specializes in teaching the Spanish language to university students of other countries. The Universitas Castellae professional team is composed of highly qualified professors and researchers in the field of Hispanic studies, from both foreign and Spanish universities.

Our facilities are situated in the very heart of the city of Valladolid, with three buildings located in Plaza del Viejo Coso (a site of historic and cultural significance) and also in nearby Calle Concepción, 6. These facilities are well-suited to the needs of our students, offering continuously updated audio-visual equipment, free access to Internet connection, supplementary reference materials, etc.

Small classes are established for all subjects. The number of students per class varies from six to fifteen, depending on enrollments.

Because foreign students face both language and cultural barriers, the program has been designed to accommodate their academic, social and cultural needs in the best way possible. Each student meets regularly with one of the Universitas Castellae professors - a personal tutor who helps solve the student's academic problems as well as facilitating his/her adaptation to the foreign culture.

### **International Program**

Universitas Castellae's curriculum for international students features a wide selection of upper-level undergraduate courses (the equivalent for 1000 to 5000 courses). It includes advanced language, literature, art, history, culture, and sociology, as well as other subjects. Courses are developed and modified according to students' level of preparation and any special needs they may have, to ensure advancement in critical thinking and

maturity of expression. In addition to attending regular classes, qualified students may choose to work on an independent project or do an internship under the supervision of a mentor. Depending on his/her interests, each student may select the courses he/she would like to take (See Course Descriptions).

### *Semester Programs*

The program has 50 hours, with classes taught four days per week (Friday is usually for office hours). Students can choose a maximum of five courses from the following list:

- Spanish Phonetics
- History of Modern and Contemporary Spain
- History of Spanish Art
- Introduction to Literary Studies: Spanish Literature
- Spanish Literature (Middle Ages and Golden Age)
- Spanish Literature (XVIII, XIX and XX Centuries)
- Latin American Literature
- Spanish Culture
- Spanish Grammar and Writing
- Conversation and Oral Expression
- Business Spanish
- Latin American Culture
- Spain and the European Common Market
- Mercosur, European Common Market and North American Treaty
- Spain and Latin America: History of International Relations
- Social and Political History of Latin America: Human Rights
- Independent Studies
- Internships (Under previous request. Consult with Universitas Castellae staff for the approval process)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

### **Spanish Phonetics**

An introduction to the study of Spanish phonetics with an emphasis on practical exercises for improving students' pronunciation of Spanish. The course includes a study of the phonemes of Spanish, contrasted with those of the student's native language and the different dialects of Spanish and the other principal languages of the Spanish-speaking world (Spain's other languages and the principal indigenous languages of Latin America).

### **History of Modern and Contemporary Spain**

Study of social, economic and political history of contemporary Spain in the context of the global community.

### **Spanish Art**

Study of great works by artists of Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and contemporary Spain and their interpretation of the world. The course is complemented with visits to

museums, monuments and historical sites. Group and individual excursions and out-of-classroom assignments constitute an important part of the course.

### **Introduction to Literary Studies: Spanish Literature**

Introduction to the literary analysis of Spanish texts. Analysis of various literary movements and genres. Study of classic works such as: Poema de Mío Cid, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, Conde Lucanor, Arcipreste de Hita, La Celestina, Lazarillo de Tormes, Don Quijote de la Mancha, and La Vida Es Sueño.

### **Spanish Literature (Middle Ages and Golden Age)**

The study and understanding of the linguistic, stylistic, ideological, and social reality of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Spain, through an analysis of the texts most representative of each period: Poema del Mío Cid, Milagros de Nuestra Señora, Conde Lucanor, Libro del Buen Amor, La Celestina, Lazarillo de Tormes, Don Quijote de la Mancha, La Vida Es Sueño etc.

### **Spanish Literature (XVIII, XIX and XX Centuries)**

An analysis of the greatest literary works produced in modern and contemporary Spain. Reading and commentary on excerpts and complete texts encourages students to understand the socio-cultural reality in which they were written. The selected texts include titles such as: El Sí de las Niñas, Don Juan Tenorio, Doña Perfecta, Niebla, Yerma, La Colmena, Las Meninas.

### **Hispanic American Literature**

Reading and interpretation of the greatest South American literature in the Spanish language. Critical study permits a better understanding of Hispanic American culture and its connection with Spanish culture. Texts discussed: Prosas Profanas, Veinte Poemas de Amor, El Túnel, Pedro Páramo, Cien Años de Soledad, La Ciudad y los Perros, etc.

### **Hispanic Culture and Cinema**

Study and interpretation of values and symbolism of Spanish popular culture. Special attention is given to religious beliefs, regional colloquial expressions, oral tradition, music, etc. Representative films by Spanish directors are viewed and discussed in class.

### **Spanish Grammar and Writing**

Development of linguistic skills and structural analysis of the language. Study of the fundamental grammar, vocabulary and oral expressions. Teaching methods employed in class are practical and diverse, with an emphasis on interaction. Special attention is given to improving writing skills.

### **Conversation and Oral Expression**

Development and improvement of oral skills form the objective of this course. In particular, colloquial expressions are studied and applied in practice.

### **Business Spanish**

(Aimed at students that possess a substantial command of the Spanish language)  
Spanish has turned into a fundamental language for trade relations. For that reason, this course will analyze the vocabulary and basic communicative strategies to use in a Spanish business context.

### **Internships**

This part of the program allows for first-hand experience working in an institution of the student's choosing (hospital, school, etc.). Interested students should contact the Program Director. Decisions regarding whether or not a particular internship is possible depend on the student's interests and skills.

### **Independent Studies**

(Consult the possibilities)