

# OXEU 388: Asturian Culture

4 credits

GEO Oviedo

Summer 2025, (Aug 4-Aug 30)

Instructor: David Wacks wacks@uoregon.edu

UO Equivalent: SPAN 399

This course satisfies:

- SPAN Minor Elective Credit
- SPAN Major Elective Credit
- SPAN Major Expertise Credit (must complete Síntesis final)

Prerequisites: Two from SPAN 301, 303, 305, 308

## Course description:

This course is an interdisciplinary study of Asturian Culture and History encompassing History, Art History, Food, Folklore, and Mythology. In addition to classroom meetings, the course will take excursions to sites of related interest in Oviedo and Asturias. Through primary and secondary source readings, and docent-led site visits to sites of historical and cultural interest, students will develop a critical understanding of some of the major topics in Asturian cultural history.

## Course goals:

- identify key topics in Asturian history, architecture, folklore and foodways in their literary/social historical contexts
- apply a corpus of critical terminology to the analysis of specific aspects and attributes of cultural production and texts
- demonstrate familiarity with regional cultural practices of Asturias and their relation to local history
- demonstrate understanding of how local histories and traditions are perceived and practiced by members of the community, and how changing demographics affects these perceptions

## Course materials:

All required course readings and viewings are available in the course reader provided to participants.

## Requirements:

- 20% In-class writing assignments (graded for completion and legibility)
- 40% Tareas (4)
- 40% Examen final

*To take this course for SPAN Major Expertise credit, students must complete the final essay assignment, graded P/NP. Please notify your instructor if you are choosing this option.*

## Technology:

In order to better focus on being together, we will not use cell phones, tablets, or laptops before, during, or after class while in the GEO classroom. The instructor may choose to use a laptop to project slides during class. Please let me know if you have an AEC accommodation that provides for the use of a laptop for purposes of taking notes and/or exams.

## Participation:

Active participation is crucial in learning a language. To maximize your success in this course, you should:

- Arrive to class on time. (If you arrive late, your instructor may count you as absent.)
- Be prepared for the day's lesson
- Participate actively and remain on-task in all individual and group activities.
- Consistently volunteer information and answers.
- Use the target language.
- Be respectful of your classmates and teacher. Give your full attention when others are talking to the class or presenting.
- Refrain from eating, entering, or leaving during class time, or any other activities that would distract classmates or instructor.
- Follow any other culture-specific behavior rules outlined by your instructor.

## Grading rubric:

Criteria	A (outstanding)	B (very good)	C (sufficient)	D (insufficient)
<b>Content</b>	assignment contains copious detail, interesting, relevant, and accurate information	goes beyond basic information; details are accurate and relevant	assignment has only basic information; minimally covers topic or some information is not relevant or accurate	little or mostly irrelevant information; many inaccuracies

<b>Academic language</b>	ideas are expressed clearly, with grammatical accuracy; excellent connections and transitions between ideas; evidence of use of spell-checker	ideas are expressed clearly, with limited errors; logical transitions; evidence of use of spell-checker	ideas are comprehensible, but some information is incomplete or incoherent; transitions are sometimes missing; evidence of use of spell-checker	some ideas are incomprehensible or disorganized; few logical connections or transitions; contains non-standard language; no use of spell-checker
<b>Research</b>	well-documented work, drawing on multiple sources (library, internet, etc.) with correct use of citations; citations are well integrated into text	library and internet sources are used; correct use of citations are well integrated into text	only internet sources are used; minor problems with citation; very little missing information	poor use of sources; incomplete or incorrect citation
<b>Originality</b>	well synthesized research material, genuinely original language	solid synthesis of researched material	minimal synthesis of researched material; minimal recasting of ideas in original language; heavy use of cited material	little synthesis of research; overuse of cited material

## Grading scale

A+	< 98 % to 100.0%
A	< 93 % to 97.0%
A-	< 92.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%
C \	< 77.0 % to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 % to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 % to 0.0%

## Program of Study

Thu Aug 21	Preromanesque Architecture, visit to San Julián de los Prados
Mon Aug 25	Public Art, field assignment
Tue Aug 26	Cider and Cheese, excursion to Llagar Herminio
Wed Aug 27	Mining, visit to Museo de la Minería (MUMI)
Thu Aug 28	Final exam, Farewell Banquet

## Participation

Students are required to participate in all course activities and discussion groups. Every effort should be made to attend synchronous meetings. If a student is not engaging in class activities the instructor will contact the student to check in with them and see if there is anything they need to be able to participate fully in course activities.

## Dreamers

The Dept. of Romance Languages and I **support all students regardless of immigration status or country of origin**. I support Dreamer students, and I am available to meet to discuss resources. Remember, when interacting with faculty, staff, and offices around campus you are never required to reveal your status. For more information and resources please visit our Dreamers page <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/dreamers/> and the Immigration FAQs page, or contact Justine Carpenter [justcarp@uoregon.edu](mailto:justcarp@uoregon.edu) in the Dean of Students Office.

## Inclusion

The University of Oregon is committed to creating spaces that actively include and engage everyone. Like names, our pronouns are an important part of how we identify that deserves to be respected. We also recognize that assuming someone's gender can be hurtful, especially to members of our community who are transgender, genderqueer or non-binary. Part of the way transphobia works is that it forces us to make assumptions about people's gender based on our perceptions of how they look, and transphobia forces us to assume that there are only two genders. Sharing our pronouns is just one of the ways we try to make people of all genders feel included and welcomed on our campus. Putting this into practice can be difficult at first—we basically have to re-train our brains in order to get it right, and we all make mistakes. The best thing you can do is practice: try using gender-neutral language and pronouns with coworkers, friends and family! If you do make a mistake, apologize and move on. For more information about pronouns, please contact the LGBT Education and Support Services Program, located in 164 Oregon Hall, via email [out@uoregon.edu](mailto:out@uoregon.edu), or online at [lgbt.uoregon.edu](http://lgbt.uoregon.edu).

## Accessibility:

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related

barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 360 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

## Academic Misconduct (including plagiarism):

The University Student Conduct Code (available at [conduct.uoregon.edu](http://conduct.uoregon.edu)) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at <https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code>

UO Libraries have prepared a self-guided tutorial on using sources ethically: "Exploring Academic Integrity" <https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/academic-integrity/Start>

## My SSP Application

Mental health is as important as physical health. Traveling to/living in another country can sometimes bring about new issues or exacerbate existing conditions. Symptoms of culture shock can also manifest as anxiety or depression.

All students studying abroad with GEO have access to My SSP, a mental health and wellness resource application. It is a free app that provides 24/7 access to professionally licensed therapists via chat, call, or video call. There are also a variety of other resources in the app including podcasts, self-assessments, articles, and fitness videos. It is a fully confidential resources to help students be successful during their study abroad experience.



Download the My SSP  
app or visit [myssp.app](http://myssp.app)  
for support

