



IFE course syllabus

Course title

The Asturias Seminar: Spanish Socio-economics in Europe and the World

Course taught by

Natalia Quintanal Fernández

Holding degrees in Labor Relations and Theory, Natalia Quintanal Fernández is also a certified coach for executive and strategic roles, with twenty years experience consulting to businesses on human resource management and talent development. Natalia's clientele is a reflection of the Asturian economy: local metallurgy firms, multinationals in heavy industry, technology firms and startups.

Purpose of the course

This course aims to:

- Introduce students from abroad to the socio-economic realities of Asturias and of Spain;
- Examine the European objectives for sustainable development in the local context;
- Analyze and evaluate each student's skills and professional development in the context of their internship.

Description of the course

The course provides an introduction to the dynamics of the Spanish economy and the web of entrepreneurial activity in Asturias. The socio-economic development of this region and the significant changes it has undergone is placed in its national, European and international contexts. A particular attention is focused on the European Union framework.

In addition to a formal analysis of local economic realities, the course includes personalized professional coaching for each student-intern as a member of a work team in their host organization.

Course format

This course meets weekly for 2.5 hours throughout the 12-week internship period. The course is a lecture/seminar whereby the professor presents material for development in class discussion. Students prepare short oral presentations on topics related to each session (see course outline).

Course outline

- 1** Introduction / Defining professional skills I
- 2** Asturias and its entrepreneurial network / Defining professional skills II
- 3** A typology of business organizations and institutions comprising the local and national economies / Working as part of a team
- 4** The labor market / Time management
- 5** The social economy / Communication in the workplace
- 6** The firm: innovation and equality / Managing conflicts
- 7** The public sector / Empathy in the workplace
- 8** European objectives for sustainable development I
- 9** European objectives for sustainable development II
- 10** Review in preparation for the final examination
- 11** Written examination in class
- 12** Oral presentations of conclusions and lessons from the internship

Suggested bibliography

La economía del Principado de Asturias. Diagnóstico Estratégico. CaixaBank Research

<https://www.ine.es/>

<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-1978-31229>

<https://www.asturias.es/gobierno>

<https://www.gijon.es/es/directorio/agencia-local-de-promocion-economica-y-empleo-alpee>

<https://www.cepes.es/>

<https://ffes.org/>

<https://www.ceei.es/>

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible/>

Grading

Students' work is evaluated on the basis of formal oral presentations, a written final examination, as well as readiness for and participation in class discussion, and attendance.

Equivalent in American university course offerings

The Modern Spanish Economy, Economics and Entrepreneurship,