

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Details	
Name	Spanish Culture Through Film
Code	DOI-SAP-130
Degree	Degree in Industrial Engineering
Semester	Fall
ECTS Credits	6
Department	Industrial Organization
Coordinator	Susana Ortiz Marcos

TEACHER DETAILS	
Professor	
Name	Norma Catalán
Department	Modern Foreign Languages
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Professor	
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COURSE SPECIFICATIONS

Course Description
This course has been designed to provide students with an overview of recent Spanish historical and cultural topics as depicted in several movies. Focusing on issues such as landscape, history, memory, violence, sexuality, and gender, this course will provide a wide-ranging introduction to Spanish culture and recent history through the events portrayed in the films included in the syllabus. Additionally, basic notions in cinematography will be introduced throughout the course to familiarize students with elementary elements of film analysis. By the end of the semester, students will have acquired a deeper understanding and appreciation of Spain's culture, history, and cinema, as well as basic notions to write and speak critically about a film.
Requirements
Level B2 of English language or Equivalent. The course will be taught entirely in English.

UNITS AND CONTENTS

Topics and Films
TOPIC-1: THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR, FRANCO'S DICTATORSHIP & TRANSITION
• <i>La Lengua de las Mariposas</i> (<i>Butterfly's Tongue</i>, José Luis Cuerda, 1999) • <i>El Laberinto del Fauno</i> (<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i>, Guillermo del Toro, 2009) • <i>La Isla Mínima</i> (<i>Marshland</i>, Alberto Rodríguez, 2014)
TOPIC-2: CARTOGRAPHIES OF SPAIN: PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPES
• <i>Volver</i> (Pedro Almodóvar, 2006). • <i>La Comunidad</i> (<i>The Commonwealth</i>, Alex de la Iglesia, 1999) • <i>Ocho Apellidos Vascos</i> (<i>Spanish Affair</i>, Emilio Martínez Lázaro, 2014)

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Classroom Instruction

1. **Lectures.** Presentations of topics and films by the professor.
2. **In-class discussions.** Analysis and discussion after movie screenings, with a student-centered learning dynamics.
3. **In-class assignments.** Group or individual activities related to the material in the movies.
4. **Film screenings.** In-class screenings of the movies included in the syllabus.
5. **Student presentation.** Student presentation of topics related to class material.

Homework

1. **Reading assignments.** Students will read accounts of films and contextual material for the movies prior to class discussions.
2. **Audiovisual assignments.** Students will watch audiovisual material as background for class material prior to discussions.
3. **Writing assignments.** Students will write assignments about movies and their historical context as well as some in-class responses to movies discussed during the course.

ASSESSMENT

First evaluation

To obtain a final grade in this course, it is mandatory to pass both the **exams** and the **continuous evaluation**. Both components are equally important and will be used to determine the student's final grade. Please note that failing to pass either the exams or the continuous evaluation will result in an incomplete grade for the course. Therefore, it is crucial to devote sufficient time and effort to both components throughout the semester. The final grade for this course is based on the **following criteria**:

50%: Exams:

- 20% Mid term exam
- 20% Final exam
- 10% Pop-quizzes (randomly scheduled throughout the semester)

50%: Continuous evaluation:

-25%: **Attendance, preparation, participation and homework**. This means not only attending class, but also preparing and '**actively participating**'. Preparation entails reading/watching preparatory material for the films and doing the corresponding homework associated with these assignments. Active participation means that you offer comments frequently, listen to your classmates' interventions, and build upon them in the interest of promoting a lively and engaging class discussion.

-10%: **In-class assignments**. Students will be asked to complete several group assignments during class time.

-15% **One Oral Presentation**. A portion of class time will be devoted to **presentations**, which you will prepare in groups of 4 or 5 students on one of the topics of the course chosen by your professor. Those presentations will serve as **an introduction or expansion to film material**. More detailed guidelines will be provided in advance of the due date.

➤ Exams and every other assignment will be marked following the Spanish numerical range.

➤ Essential factors in order to **obtain an 9-10 grade** in this course are:

- To participate in class voluntarily and to contribute to discussions with informed reactions.
- To link filmic representations to a broader discussion of Spanish history and culture.
- To comply with assignments on a weekly basis.
- To develop and show excellent interpretative skills when analyzing film both in class discussion and when submitting papers and/or exams.

Second or subsequent final exam sittings: In the second and following final exam sittings the course grade will be 100% based on the grade of the written final exam.

USE OF AI

Use of AI

The use of AI to create entire works or relevant parts without citing the source or the tool, or without explicit permission in the assignment description, will be considered plagiarism and will be regulated in accordance with the University General Regulations.

CLASS POLICY

- **Language**. Class discussions and written work will all be carried out in **English**. Please be aware that if you don't feel comfortable enough with your comprehensive and productive levels of the English language, it is advisable not to enroll in the class. If you would like to consult with me outside of class (via email, in office hours, etc.) you can do so in Spanish or English.
- **Attendance and timely arrival are essential**. According to the General Academic Norms of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas and the Academic Norms of the ICAI School of Engineering, **students are required to attend class**. If a student's **unjustified absences** are more than **15%** of the total number of class sessions, **the student may not be allowed to sit for the final exam**.

In this course, attendance is mandatory and critical to success. All students are expected to attend each class session, and to arrive on time. Absences can negatively impact the student's academic progress, as well as the learning experience of other students in the class. Late arrivals and absences not only lead to your missing material but also disrupt the flow of class. Please make every effort to be on time for all course meetings. Bear in mind that some of the films screened in class are not part of our library's catalogue and may be difficult to find outside the university.

- **Late work** will not be accepted, except in extreme cases and with proper documentation. **Make-up examinations** or assignments are considered only for students who provide documentation of a compelling reason for missing the exam or homework. Compelling reasons may include religious conflict, documented serious illness, or major unexpected circumstances. Please bear in mind that the following will not be accepted as a compelling reason: lack of preparation, negligence, misinformation, or planned vacations and other events.

- All written work should follow **MLA style** for scholarly writing as outlined at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/> or in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. It is especially important for my correcting that you leave **double space** between the lines in your text and that you choose A4 paper size (8.3 x 11.7 inches) before printing your work.

- **Proper citation** of sources and any ideas not your own is fundamental. If you are not certain how to attribute information or ideas, please feel free to ask for an appointment and discuss it with me. **Plagiarism** is a very serious matter and will not be tolerated. Any sources you use should be properly cited, both when quoting directly as well as paraphrasing or summarizing sources or other people's ideas.

- The use of **laptop computers, tablets and cell phones** is strongly discouraged unless they are serving the purpose of taking notes or working on an in-class assignment.

- Please feel free to let me know if there are any **special considerations** I should know about that might affect your performance in the class. If you have a disability or other condition that might require some modification of any of these course procedures, please inform me. You may speak with me after class or by email, and such information will remain confidential.

- **Special note on content:** Some of the films we will watch this semester contain **graphic content** in terms of language, nudity, sexual situations, and violence. If watching or discussing such content might pose a serious problem for you, it is advisable not to enroll in the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Corrigan, T. (2009): *A short guide to writing about film* (7th ed.). New York: Longman.
- Jordan, B. & Allinson, M. (2005): *Spanish Cinema: A student's guide*. London: Hodder Arnold.Kinder,

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Texts, Manuals, Books and Articles

- Bordwell, D. & Thompson, K. *Film art: An introduction*. Boston: McGraw Hill. Press, 2008
- Faulkner, Sally. *A History of Spanish Film: Cinema and Society 1910-2010*. London: Bloomsbury, 2013.
- Gies, David T., (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Hooper, John. *The new Spaniards*. London: Penguin, 2006.
- Jordan, B. & Morgan-Tamosunas, R. *Contemporary Spanish cinema*. Manchester: Manchester University, 1998
- Arnold.Kinder, M. *Blood cinema: The reconstruction of national identity in Spain*. Berkeley:University of California Press, 2013
- Labanyi, J. & Pavlovic, T. (eds.). *A Companion to Spanish Cinema*. Malden,MA/Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012
- Lewis, J. *Essential Cinema: an Introduction to Film Analysis*. Boston, US: Wadsworth, 2013
- Pavlovic, T. et al. *100 Years of Spanish Cinema*. Malden, MA/Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008
- Stone, R *Spanish cinema*. NY: Longman, 2002
- Triana-Toribio, Nuria. *Spanish National Cinema*. London: Routledge, 2003.
- Film Analysis Guide. Film Studies Program. Yale University, New Haven, 2002 <http://filmanalysis.yctf.org>