

Gap Semester Programme SPAIN THROUGH MOVIES: VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS OF SPAIN

Course contact hours: 45

Number of sessions: 27

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

Professor:

Objectives

This course covers two main topics: Spanish Cinema and the transformation of Spanish society during the 20th and 21st centuries. Students study the change in the Spanish film industry as it moved from an *auteur* tradition to an industry-oriented sector. While studying this artistic metamorphosis, students will also reflect on the transformation of Spain from a conservative, insular society to the Spain we see today.

Using classical movies made in Spain by well-known directors such as Luis Buñuel or Luis García Berlanga, students have the opportunity to see how Spain was and how locals and those who lived in exile depicted it. More recent filmmakers like Pedro Almodóvar and Alejandro Amenábar are used to illustrate how both the Spanish movie industry and the views of Spain and its people have changed.

Learning outcomes

General:

- Develop capacities and strategies for independent learning including becoming actively responsible for the learning process, developing the ability to self-assess progress and manage time.
- Enhance teamwork skills by adopting a collaborative methodology to complete tasks, projects and presentations.
- Adapt to working in an international context, understanding the intercultural make-up of the class / group and developing empathy.
- Use different media to support their learning, communication and presentation skills.

Specific:

- Be able to identify genres and main topics in Spanish movies.
- Distinguish the different approaches used by directors and writers to depict or denounce Spanish issues.
- Interpret the main aesthetic elements of a movie or documentary.
- Be able to write a solid analysis of a movie within its cultural and historical context.
- Criticize how art, in particular the cinema, depicts realities and tries to influence the views and opinions of the audience.

Contents

- Week 1. - A Basic Introduction to the History of Spanish Cinema, 1890-1970s
- Week 2. - A Basic Introduction to the Spanish 20th century
- Week 3. - Cinema under Francoism: the exile
- Week 4. - Cinema under Francoism: the National View
- Week 5. - DEBATE. Censorship and Propaganda
- Week 6. - DEBATE. Cinema: Industry or Art, (or Both)
- Week 7. - PRESENTATIONS. Gender in Pedro Almodóvar's movies
- Week 8. - PRESENTATIONS. The Modernization of the Spanish Taste in Alejandro Amenábar's movies
- Week 9. - PRESENTATIONS. Social Critique in the Movies of Luis García Berlanga
- Week 10. - PRESENTATIONS. New Sexualities and Relationships in the movies of Julio Médem
- Week 11. - PRESENTATIONS. Spain goes to Hollywood. J. A. Bayona
- Week 12. - DEBATE. Is cinema a good tool to depict reality?
- Week 13. - FINAL ASSESSMENT

Teaching methodology

During the semester the professor uses modern educational techniques and technologies to enable students to succeed in a wide range of fields and methodologies. These include lectures, discussions, exploration, hands on experience, field trips and invited experts. Participation is valued through collaboration, presentations and activities in which students are responsible for researching and interpreting the topics studied and analyzed.

Assessment criteria

- 25% Mid Term Exam
- 20% Final Exam
- 20% Presentation
- 20% Research Paper
- 15% Debates and Discussions

Bibliography

- BARTON, Simon, *A History of Spain*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2009.
- CHAPMAN, Charles, *A History of Spain: Founded on the Historia de España y de la Civilización Española of Rafael Altamira*, Forgotten Books, 2012.
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- DELGADO, Maria M., *Spanish Cinema 1973-2010*, Manchester UP, 2014.
- FAULKNER, Sally, *A History of Spanish Film*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2013.
- GUNTHER, Richard, *The Politics of Spain*, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- HOOPER, John, *The New Spaniards*, Penguin, 2006.
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- LABANYI, Jo, *Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spain*, Oxford UP, 2002. *A Companion to Spanish Cinema*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.
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- ORTI, Pilar, *The A to Z of Spanish Culture*, lulu.com, 2012.
- PAYNE, Stanley G., *Spain, A Unique History*, University of Wisconsin, 2011.
- PHILIPS, William D. & PHILIPS, Carla Rahn, *A Concise History of Spain*, Cambridge, 2010.
- PLATT PARMELE, Mary, *A Short History of Spain*, Enhanced Media Publishing, 2016.
- REQUEJO, Ferran, *Multinational Federalism and Value Pluralism: The Spanish Case*, Routledge, 2005.
- RODGERS, Eamonn, *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Spanish Culture*, Routledge, 2001.
- SMITH, Paul Julian, *Contemporary Spanish Culture*, Polity Press, 2002. *Spanish Visual Culture*, Manchester University Press, 2006
- STONE, Rob, *Spanish Cinema*, Routledge, 2001.
- TATLOCK, R.R., *Spanish Art*, Read Books, 2011.
- TREMLETT, GILES, *Ghosts of Spain*, Faber & Faber, 2007.