

STUDENT'S GUIDE CONTEMPORARY SPAIN THROUGH FILM



Course Description

Cinema is one of the most popular artistic manifestations due to its expressive power and narrative capacity. In the case of Spain, film production allows us to approach the reality of our country from two aspects: historical document and aesthetic expression.

This course aims to fulfill two functions. On the one hand, students will get to know the Spanish cinematographic discourse by taking as a reference fundamental directors and films in the history of cinema in Spain. These are well known directors and films that have won awards at national and international film festivals. On the other hand, the course is a journey through the history of Spain, from the Second Republic and the Civil War to democracy, taking as a reference the historical period in question.

The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the history, uses, and customs of Spanish society through its cinematographic works, in such a way as to make the artistic value compatible with the transmission of historical-sociological content.

Introduction of the Professor

Javier Velerdas Vergel.



He has a Degree in Hispanic Philology (1997, University of Salamanca), a Certificate of Pedagogical Aptitude (1998, University of Valladolid), and a Master's Degree in Spanish Teacher Training: Specialization in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language (2014, University of Alcalá).

Currently, he combines teaching in the Study Abroad and the Teach and Learn study programs at Instituto Franklin-UAH with the training of teachers in the Master's Degree in Spanish Teacher Training:

Specialization in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language of the University of Alcalá (UAH), and the meetings of ELE teachers held in Spain. His main lines of research are: sociocultural competence in the teaching of Spanish and the use of cinema in ELE classes.

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Learning Results

Objectives of the course

The main objective of this course is to address the most significant political, economic, social and cultural events that have taken place in Spain during the twentieth century and early twenty-first century.

After the analysis of the period of the Second Republic and the Civil War, the Francoist period is analyzed in detail, with particular emphasis on the political and economic aspects and the social movements that developed during these years. Thus, Spanish society in the 30s, 40s and 50s is analyzed, focusing on the characteristics of the totalitarian state, the international isolation that Spain suffered after World War II, the rise and consolidation of the regime, as well as the most relevant economic and social aspects of these early years.

Subsequently, the decade of the 60s and 70s is analyzed in order to understand the meaning of the entry of technocrats into power, the importance of developmentalism, the political changes and the most important social conflicts that took place during these years. Finally, and through the latest films, we analyze the importance and significance of the death of the dictator and the change that the transition to democracy meant in the recent history of Spain. The knowledge of all these aspects is not reduced to a simple narration of the facts, but will try to explain the how and the why in the influence and significance in today's Spain. It is intended to promote the critical analysis of students and encourage their participation and interest in order to acquire an overview of contemporary Spanish history and society. Reference will be made, therefore, to social, political and cultural issues, in addition to presenting some of the challenges facing Spanish society today.

Requirements or level of Spanish necessary

The level of Spanish required to follow this course is a medium-high level of Spanish.

Competences

This course seeks to achieve the development of the following competencies:

Competence 1.	To analyze Spanish culture from the images it offers of itself in the cinema.
Competence 2.	Critically identify the most important political, economic, social and cultural events of the 20th and 21st centuries in Spain.
Competence 3.	To study from a sociocultural perspective the recent history of Spain based on four historical periods: Civil War and background, Francoism, Transition and Democracy.
Competence 4.	To reflect on the main currents, directors, themes, genres, influences and evolution of Spanish cinema throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. The way to analyze the different films will be through criticism and analysis of the themes represented.
Competence 5.	To know the basic fundamentals of contemporary Spanish society as well as to describe and interpret the most significant social and political problems.
Competence 6.	Develop analytical skills to identify the causes and consequences of the evolution of Spanish society through images.

Practical application of the course

This course is intended for all those students who wish to learn the most important aspects of Spanish History of the 20th and 21st centuries; to understand the socio-

cultural characteristics of present-day Spain (customs, traditions, festivals,...) and to learn more about Spanish film production in recent years.

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