



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS
"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

Course	Flamenco and its Culture: Theory and Practice.
Program	Study Abroad
Credits	4.5 ECTS / 3 USA (semester credits)
Class hours	45
Student work hours outside the classroom	90
Office hours	By appointment
Requirements	High intermediate Spanish level
Language of instruction	Spanish

INTRODUCTION

Flamenco, recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2010, is one of Spain's most iconic artistic expressions and a highly valued cultural symbol on an international level. Moreover, it has become an essential element of Spanish identity. This unique art form blends a rich variety of disciplines and cultural traditions, from music and dance to attire and musical instruments, making it an exceptionally complex and diverse musical expression.

Historically, flamenco has held a prominent place in Spanish culture, as reflected in numerous literary, pictorial, theatrical, and cinematic works that have taken it as their central theme. This multidimensionality makes it a fascinating subject of study, particularly for those who wish to explore Spain's roots, traditions, and cultural expressions from an artistic and educational perspective.

The main objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to flamenco, covering both theoretical aspects—such as its history, instruments, and attire—and practical elements through introductory dance activities. These practical sessions will be led by professional artists and conducted in a specialized academy, offering participants an enriching and authentic learning experience.

COMPETENCES

According to this section the course will aim to develop the following competencies:

General competences (GC):

GC1: Learn and explain the origins and evolution of Flamenco.

GC2: Identify different "palos" i.e., rhythms of flamenco singing and dancing.

GC3: Knowing the social, political and ethnic influences of flamenco.

Specific competences (SC):

CE1: Practice some basic movements of flamenco dance and rhythms.

CE2: Reflect on current flamenco and know other genres to which it has given rise.

CE3: To handle a specific musical language specific to this musical art.

METHODOLOGY

Theoretical-practical lessons will be given by the teacher based mainly on the information in the class notes, being completed with auditions, video viewing, among other materials. The theoretical classes will also contain a great deal of audiovisual content. At the same time, the student will receive a series of practical classes given by flamenco artists in a dance academy, where he/she will be able to learn the basic expressions of this art that have been worked on in class.

In the course there will be two exams, one partial and one final, as well as a final work in which there will be two options: either to make an oral presentation on a theme or a work of art related to flamenco; or to perform a short flamenco piece in the form of dance, dance or music.

The methodology aims to work on both the theoretical contents and the attitudes and skills of the students with the objective of developing the aforementioned competencies. Students will work individually and in groups depending on the exercises or activities that are programmed.

The teacher will provide all theoretical materials (texts, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) through an online folder (Google Drive). For the practical classes, the student will only have to bring appropriate clothing (sportswear is enough); as the rest of the materials and accessories will be provided by the dance school.

Note: the student will not need any previous musical, rhythm or dance knowledge. These notions will be acquired during the course.

PREPARACIÓN PARA CLASE

For the best performance in the course, students must come to class each day prepared, having completed the tasks assigned in the syllabus. Homework is extremely important as it allows students to anticipate the class content. This will primarily involve reading the articles and texts indicated by the instructor and completing the course exercises. This preparation is key to keeping up with the pace of the class. Working on the readings before attending class prepares students to ask questions and share opinions on the subject matter during class.

Read the assigned topics before class.

- Reflect on questions that could lead to interesting debates.
- Take notes during class explanations and discussions.
- Use class time to deepen or complete the instructor's explanations and reinforce what has been learned independently.

EVALUATION

The evaluation system is based on class participation, the completion of activities or homework, a final project, and two exams.

• Participation

Participation must be active, meaning the student is not only expected to ask questions but also to make comments and actively participate in the exercises proposed in class, both in groups and individually. Additionally, the student must read the texts assigned by the teacher and complete the related exercises.

The student is expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibility in the classroom, so inappropriate gestures, attitudes, or behaviors may negatively affect the grade in this section.

Participation in practical classes is also mandatory.

This section accounts for **10% of the total grade**.

The participation grade will be awarded based on:

- **High participation:** The student is always prepared for class, actively participates with relevant comments or questions that show they have studied and prepared. (8-10%).
- **Low participation:** The student is not active in class, is absent, or talks to other students and is unprepared because they have not studied. They do not ask questions or make relevant comments. (0-7%).

• Activities

During the classes, the teacher will hand out a series of exercises, activities and small projects that the student will have to carry out, either during the course of the explanation or once outside the classroom. Students will also be asked to conduct searches in the press and other media, and bring news items to class. Unless otherwise indicated (certain class activities will be done on paper), all activities must be submitted by email. Failure to meet the deadlines required by the teacher will result in the activity not being picked up. The total percentage of this section is 15%.

- Final paper: option 1) oral presentation; option 2) perform a short flamenco piece in the form of dance, dance or music. A final work must be carried out for which two options will be given, among which the student will be able to choose one, according to his/her preference: to carry out an oral

presentation on a topic or a work of art related to flamenco; or to carry out a brief flamenco piece in the form of dance, dance or music. The total percentage of this section is 25%.

For the evaluation of the presentation will be taken into account:

- Visual appearance: that it has no grammatical errors, the information is clear and concise and visually appealing, with images. It is allowed to include no more than 1 minute of film or video to illustrate the student's explanations.
- Knowledge of the topic: the student knows all the details of the topic presented and can talk about it without looking at his/her notes.
- Presentation skills: the learner maintains eye contact with the audience, keeps the audience interested.
- Time management: the learner controls the time and presents all the information in the established time.

• Exams

It is recommended to read all the readings, manual and articles and make summaries of the topics covered in class in addition to taking notes of the professor's explanations. This should be reviewed

If the student does not understand something, in this case he/she should ask the professor the following day of class to clarify all the doubts. It is better to study and review each week a little before the exam day arrives.

before the day of the exam in order to have adequate knowledge for the exam.

There will be a partial exam and a final exam, they are not cumulative. The total percentage of this section is 50%, 25% for each exam.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of this course is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	10%
ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS	15%
MIDTERM EXAM	25%
FINAL EXAM	25%
PRESENTATION	25%

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is MANDATORY. If the student is absent for more than the allowed limit (one class absence in the summer program and two absences in the fall and spring programs), the final grade will reflect a decrease of 10 points for each non-attendance that has not been excused by a doctor's certificate or by your Program Director. It is the individual responsibility of the student to make up any missed content about the subject taught in class the day the student was absent.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with special needs should contact Antonio Fernández: antonio.fernandezm@uah.es Instituto Franklin-UAH can accommodate these students who show through a medical note or a note from their academic advisor that require help in order to fulfill the program.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASS

The use of technology is essential today in education, but if is used inappropriately it can be harmful for students. It is necessary that students ask for permission from the teacher in order to use any technological devices. Faculty should make clear to students in what instances technology can be used.

CLASS SHCEDULE

PROGRAMA DE LAS CLASES

Topic 1. General introduction to flamenco.

Definition of flamenco and its elements. Etymology and geography of flamenco. Flamenco and singing as an expression of the Spaniards. "El duende": the importance of the gypsy people. Musical examples.

Topic 2. History of flamenco.

Origins of flamenco. Cultural miscegenation: Muslim, gypsy and other ethnic groups presence in Spain. XVIII century: flamenco and seguidillas and boleros. 19th century: flamenco and the rise of the Spanish cliché. 20th century: from the marginal to the mainstream. 21st century: generalized success of flamenco, consolidation and new experimental ways.

Practical class 1: introduction and basic notions for the practical classes. History and origins of flamenco, and dances and dances prior to flamenco.

Topic 3. From the guitar to the flamenco cajón: main instruments and styles of flamenco.

The guitar as the core of flamenco. The castanets. The flamenco cajón. New instruments in flamenco. Main flamenco "toques" or "palos": bulerías, etc. Musical examples.

Practical class 2: The guitar as the core of flamenco. The castanets. The flamenco cajón.

Practical class 3: Main flamenco "toques" or "palos": bulerías, fandangos, etc.

Practical class 4: Main flamenco "toques" or "palos": bulerías, fandangos, etc.

Topic 4. From singing to dancing: the human body as the main means of expression of flamenco.

Dressing flamenco/flamenco: parts of the costume. The voice: the "cantaor". The body: the "bailaor" and the palmas. Musical examples.

Practical class 5: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The voice.

Practical class 6: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The palmas.

Practical class 7: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The body and the dance.

Practical class 8: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The body and the dance.

Practical class 9: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The body and the dance.

Practical class 10: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The body and the dance.

Practical class 11: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The body and the dance.

Practical class 12: initiation to the human body as the main means of expression in flamenco. The body and the dance.

Topic 5. The root of Spanish culture and identity: cultural and social iconography of flamenco.
XVIII century: from the bolero to the genre paintings. Nineteenth century: from travelers to the gypsy cigarette girl Carmen de Bizet, passing through the Alhambra. 20th century: from the "flamenco doll" to the great international tourism fairs.

Topic 6. Tradition and reinvention: flamenco today.

Main flamenco festivals and celebrations: from the Festival del Cante de las Minas to the popular festivals. Flamenco in the last 50 years. Camarón, Paco de Lucía as maximum exponents and renovators of flamenco. Enrique Morente, Pitingo and flamenco fusion. Rosalía and the popularization of flamenco among the popular culture. Flamenco and electronics.

Practical class 13: review of the practical contents of the course, doubts and preparation of the practical work.

Practical class 14: current flamenco and flamenco fusion.

***NOTE:** This syllabus is subject to change. The final syllabus will be given to students on the first day of class.

BIBLIOGRAHY

Barrios Lirola Fernando – Manual para comprender el flamenco: la esencia del flamenco es su música, 2004

Fernández Lola - Teoría Musical del Flamenco (Ritmo, Armonía, Melodía y Forma), 2004

López Ruiz Luis – Guía del Flamenco, 2018

Pedro Alcántara Capiscol – Los Palos, 2019

Utrilla Almagro Jerónimo – El Flamenco se aprende: teoría y didáctica para la enseñanza del flamenco, 2007

WE SPEAK ONLY IN SPANISH

In the class we will only speak in Spanish. The use of English in the class would prevent the total immersion of the student in the Spanish learning process. In addition, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we ask you to make an additional effort to adapt the terminology with the sole purpose of familiarizing yourself with the characteristic languages of the subject. For a better understanding of the class we recommend a high level of Spanish.

This syllabus is subject to change if needed.