



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN  
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS  
"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

<b>Course</b>	Contemporary Spain through Film
<b>Program, semester, year</b>	International Studies Program
<b>Credits ECTS</b>	3 USA
<b>Class hours</b>	45
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Requirements</b>	Intermediate Spanish
<b>Language of instruction</b>	Spanish
<b>Type of teaching</b>	In person (if necessary with online sections in Blackboard)

## INTRODUCTION

This course aims to fulfill two functions. On the one hand, students will learn about the Spanish cinematographic discourse, 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 aims to take a journey through the history of Spain, from the Civil War to democracy, taking as a reference the film production on the historical period in question. In this way, the course serves to familiarize students with the history, uses, manners and customs of Spanish society through cinematographic works in such a way that the artistic value and the transmission of historical-sociological content are made compatible. At the end of the course, the student will be able to explain the contemporary history of Spain and will have become familiar with Spanish customs and habits.

Warning: The course may include the viewing of films or images with sexual, religious or other content that may offend the sensibilities of the student. If a student decides to leave class during the viewing of this type of material, it will count as an unexcused absence.

## COMPETENCES

The aim is to encourage students' critical analysis and to foster their participation and interest so that they acquire an overall view 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. According to this section, the course will aim to develop the following competencies:

### General competencies (GC):

**GC1:** Analyze Spanish culture from the images it offers of itself through cinema.

**GC2:** To critically identify the most important political, economic, social and cultural events of the 20th century in Spain.

**GC3:** Knowing the basic fundamentals of contemporary Spanish society as well as to describe and and to make a description and interpretation of the most significant social and political problems.

**GC4:** Develop the analytical ability to identify the causes and consequences of the evolution of Spanish society through images.

### Specific competences (SC):

**SC1:** Study from a sociocultural perspective the recent history of Spain based on four historical periods: Civil War and background, Francoism, Transition and Democracy.

**SC2:** Reflect on the main currents, directors, themes, genres, influences and evolution of Spanish cinema throughout the 20th century. The way to analyze the different films will be through criticism and analysis of the themes represented.

## METHODOLOGY

An essential part of the course is the exposition of the topics by the professor with the active participation of the students in the debates.

Theoretical-practical lessons will be given based on the information in the class manual. The professor will provide or indicate the fundamental didactic materials for the follow-up and preparation of each of the classes and the students will have at their disposal the scripts of the films viewed, as well as the articles and readings related to the topics covered in class.

Before watching the films, students should know the plot and the different sequences. During the projection of the film, the script provided can be used to facilitate the understanding and following of the film. After the screening there will be an in-depth analysis of the film in question.

As a requirement of the course, the student will have to do a research work on a Spanish film of his/her choice. This work will be presented in an oral presentation in which the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate the analytical skills learned throughout the course. The course will have two exams, one quarterly and one final, whose objective is to evaluate if all the competencies have been acquired.

## PREPARATION FOR CLASS

For the best performance of the course, the student should arrive each day prepared to class, having completed the tasks assigned in the program. The work at home is very important since it will allow the student to anticipate the content of the class. It will basically involve reading the information in the manual and doing the comprehension exercises that appear in it. This task is key to be able to follow the rhythm of the class, since it will facilitate the comprehension of the viewing.

Working on the readings before coming to class prepares the student to ask questions and give opinions on the subject matter in class.

- Read assigned topics before class.
- Reflects on questions that may lead to interesting discussions.
- Takes notes during class explanations and discussions.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation system is based on class participation; participation in activities (if any) exams and assignments.

- **Participation**

It must be active, that is to say, the student must not only ask his doubts, but must also make comments and actively participate in the exercises proposed in class both in group and individually. In addition, the student must read the texts assigned by the professor and do the exercises related to the text. The student is expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibility in the classroom so that gestures, passive attitude such as sleeping in class, and having inappropriate behavior in the classroom may have a negative impact on the grade of this section. The total percentage of this section is 10%.

- **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 teacher's explanations. This should be reviewed by the student in case he/she does not understand something, in this case he/she should ask the professor the next day of class to clarify all doubts. It is better to study and review each week a little 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.

If the professor detects copying or plagiarism in the exam, the student will receive a grade of zero and will not have the option of any type of recovery.

The professor reserves the right to give "surprise exams" when he/she deems it appropriate. These exams will always be at the beginning of the class and will be very short (five minutes more or less). They will be assessed as one more homework grade.

- **Written work.**

The student will have to do a research paper (dossier) on a Spanish film of his/her choice. The total percentage of this section is 20%.

**Note:** If the work is not handed in on the indicated date the student will receive one point less for each day late.

- **Oral presentation.**

The written work on the film (dossier) will be exposed in an oral presentation in which the student will have the opportunity to demonstrate the analytical skills learned throughout the course. The presentation will include the same sections of the films seen in class.

The total percentage of this section is 20%.

**Plagiarism:**

Research papers should expose students' own ideas. The work of other writers or experts used to support students' ideas must be cited appropriately. Inappropriate use of someone else's text or work is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of academic standards and may result in failure of the paper or even the subject for which the paper was written. In extreme cases it may result in expulsion from the program. Guidelines for writing the paper properly should be provided by the professor.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation of this course is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	10%
MIDTERM EXAMS	25%
FINAL EXAMS	25%
RESEARCH PAPER	20%
ORAL PRESENTATION	20%

## 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](mailto: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.

## USE OF BLACKBOARD

All courses offered by Instituto Franklin-UAH can be taught through the Blackboard virtual classroom. Also teachers can have materials, forums, etc in the virtual classroom even if they don't teach the class virtually. For more information about using it contact Antonio Fernández: [antonio.fernandezm@uah.es](mailto:antonio.fernandezm@uah.es)

## CLASS SHCEDULE

	CLASS SCHEDULE	ASSIGMENTS
	Unit 1: Introduction to the course. Presentation of the program. Presentation of the II Republic (1931- 1936).	Buy the course manual. Read the dossier of the first film. Listen to the teacher's explanations in class presentations and write down the main ideas. Ask questions.
	The language of butterflies. Reading and discussion on the period. Presentation of the historical context of Tierra y Libertad.	Answer the questions in the manual about the film. General discussion about the film, answering questions from the manual and resolving doubts.
	FILM VIEWING: Land and Liberty	TASK: Read the historical context of Tierra y Libertad.

	<p>Debate: Role of the International Brigades: does it make sense to go to fight in other countries for political ideals?</p>	<p>Research on the groups of foreigners who came to Spain to fight on the Republican side and why.</p>
	<p>Historical context: General explanations about the period of Franco's dictatorship: the early years and repression.</p> <p>Reading and discussion about the period.</p>	<p>TASK: Read the dossier of the film The Barbarian Years.</p>
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: The Barbarian Years</p>	<p>Answer the questions about the film</p>
	<p>Historical context: General explanations about the Franco dictatorship period: the birth of ETA and the problem of terrorism. Reading and discussion on the period</p>	<p>TASK: Read the dossier of the film Lobo and answer the questions</p>
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: Lobo</p>	<p>Answer the questions about the film</p>
	<p>Historical context: General explanations about the period of Franco's dictatorship: economic problems, immigration. Reading and discussion about the period.</p>	<p>TASK: Read the dossier of the film Un franco, catorce pesetas.</p>
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: Un franco, catorce pesetas</p>	<p>Answer the questions about the film</p>
	<p>Historical context: General explanations about the Franco dictatorship period: economic, social problems, drug addiction, machismo. Reading and discussion about the period.</p>	<p>TASK: Read the dossier of the film La isla mínima.</p>
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: La isla mínima</p>	<p>Answer the questions about the film</p>

	<p>Historical context: General explanations about the period of democracy: economic problems, unemployment and industrial reconversion during democracy. Reading and discussion on the period</p>	TASK: Read the dossier of the film, Los lunes al sol.
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: Los lunes al sol</p>	Answer the questions about the film
	<p>Historical context: General explanations of the period of democracy: rural-urban differences, the role of women, incest.</p>	TASK: Read the dossier of the film, Volver
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: Volver</p>	Answer the questions about the film
	<p>Historical context: General explanations of regional differences, stereotypes.</p>	Read film dossier
	<p>VIEWING MOVIE: Ocho apellidos vascos</p>	Answer the exercises in the manual
	<p>Historical context: General explanations of unemployment issues, drug trafficking.</p>	Read film dossier
	<p>VISIONADO PELICULA: El niño</p>	Answer the exercises in the manual

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

## BIBLIOGRAHY

The student must purchase the class manual in reprographics. Colegio de Málaga Building. Next to the Institute.

AMPLIADA (this bibliography can be found in the Colegio de Málaga library).

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AA.VV. Cine español (1896-1988) Madrid. Ministerio de Cultura. 1989.

AA.VV. Historia del cine español. Madrid. Cátedra. 1995.

Caparrós, J. M. El cine español de la democracia (1975-1989). De la muerte de Franco al "cambio" socialista. Anthropos. Barcelona. 1992.

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Gubern, R., y otros Historia del cine español. Cátedra. Madrid 1995.

Hueso, A. L. El cine y el siglo XX. Ariel. Barcelona, 1998.

Platas Tasende, Ana Mª. Literatura, cine y sociedad. Textos literarios y fílmicos. Tambre. La Coruña.1994.

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Kinder, Marsha, ed. Refiguring Spain. Cinema/ Media/ Representation. Durham and London. Duke University Press, 1997.

Romaguera, J.; Riambau, E. (eds.) La historia y el Cine. Fontamara. Barcelona, 1983.

Seguin, Jean Claude. Historia del cine español. Acento Editorial. Madrid. 1995.

Quesada, Luís. La novela española y el cine. J.C. Madrid.1996.

Villegas López, M. Arte, cine y sociedad. J.C. Madrid. 1991.

## **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.