



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS
“BENJAMIN FRANKLIN”

Course	Historical relations between Spain and US in Comics
Program, semester, year	International Studies Program, Spring 2022
Credits ECTS	3 USA
Class hours	45
Office Hours	By appointment
Requirements	Intermediate Spanish level
Language of instruction	Spanish
Type of teaching	In person (with online sections in Blackboard)

INTRODUCTION

DESCRIPTION

This course offers an overview of the history of comics from a comparative approach between the development of this medium in Spain and the United States. It will show how throughout the 20th century comics have developed differently in both countries and what have been the main confluences in this development: the massive publication of U.S. comics in Spain, the presence of Spanish authors in the United States, first through agencies and, later, in superhero comics and, finally, the rise of contemporary Spanish graphic novels that are beginning to be published regularly in the U.S. market and are receiving critical acclaim.

COMPETENCES

General competences (GC):

GC1: Comment and argue with complex ideas the works read, orally or in writing.

GC2: Present and defend acquired knowledge both in writing and orally.

Specific competences (SC):

SC1: Understand that the comic is an autonomous medium and understand its language.

SC2: Achieve a global knowledge of the development of comics in Spain and the United States.

SC3: To develop the analytical ability to identify the main characteristics of comics in both countries at different historical moments.

SC4: To know the relationships that have been established throughout history between the comic market in the United States and the comic market in Spain.

METHODOLOGY

Theoretical-practical lessons will be given by the teacher based, mainly, on the material that the teacher will provide to the students being completed with activities such as visits to museums or presentations of comic artists, according to the calendar of exhibitions and the availability of the artists. In addition, Power Point presentations and the viewing of certain biographical documentaries will be used to help understand the most important characteristics of some of the concepts and works presented. Students will work in small groups with the objective of analyzing and comparing certain comics that will be provided by the teacher.

At the end of the course the student will have to do a work that can be of two types to choose: a research work on a comic book or a creative work that will consist in the realization of his own comic book. Finally, the course will have two exams, a quarterly one and a final one so that the teacher can evaluate if all the competences of the course have been fulfilled.

The methodology aims to work both the theoretical contents and the attitudes and skills of the students with the objective of developing the competences indicated above).

PREPARATION FOR CLASS

For the best performance of the course, the student should arrive each day prepared to class, having done the readings assigned in the program.

The work at home is very important as it will allow the student to anticipate the class. It will basically involve reading the information provided by the teacher and doing the comprehension exercises. This task is key to follow the rhythm of the class, since it will facilitate the comprehension of what has been learned. With this way of working, it is intended that the student comes to class familiar with certain technical vocabulary and knows the authors and the works that will be discussed in class.

EVALUATION

The evaluation system is based on class participation, both online and face-to-face; participation in activities (if mandatory) exams and assignments.

- **Participation.** It must be active, that is to say, the student must not only ask his doubts, but 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 behaviors in the classroom may have a negative impact on the grade of this section. The total percentage of this section is 20%.
- **Homework:** the student must do at home the exercises proposed in the previous class. The teacher will monitor the work done by the student on a daily basis. The total percentage of this section is 20%.
- **Practical work:** the objective of this activity is for students to develop their knowledge of the content related to the subject through two aspects to choose from: a research work or a creative work. The total percentage of this section is 30%.

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

- **Midterm exam:** It will take place in the middle of the course. In this test the student will be examined on all the content studied up to that moment during the classes in order for the professor to evaluate all the competences of the course. The exam will consist of several exercises (multiple-choice questions and free-writing exercises). The total percentage of this section is 15%.
- **Final exam:** It will take place in the middle of the course. In this test the student will examine all the content studied during the classes since the partial exam in order for the teacher to evaluate all the competences of the course. The exam will consist of several exercises (multiple-choice questions and free-writing exercises). The total percentage of this section is 15%.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a violation of academic norms and as such it can result in a failed course. In extreme cases it can include the expulsion from the program. In order to avoid this, it is recommended to remind students of how to cite and rephrase the works of authors when writing papers. 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 valued as an additional homework grade.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of this course is as follows:

PARTICIPATION	20%
ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS	20%
TASKS AND ASSIGNMENTS	30%
MIDTERM EXAMS	15%
FINAL EXAMS	15%

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.

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

CLASS SHCEDULE

	CLASS SCHEDULE	ASSIGNMENTS
	Presentation of the course. Explanation of the syllabus. What is the comic? (1 session)	Buy the material provided in reprographics
	Topic I: The language of comics (2 sessions)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework
	Topic II: An approach to the history of comics in the United States (2 sessions)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework
	Topic III: An approach to the history of comics in Spain (2 sessions)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework
	Topic IV: The pioneers of press comics (2 sessions)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework
	Tema V: Dibujantes españoles en Estados Unidos. Los años de las agencias. (3 sesiones)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework
	Topic VI: Superhero comics and their internationalization (3 sessions)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework
	Topic VII: The contemporary Spanish graphic novel (3 sessions)	Read the comics provided in class and do the corresponding homework

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The professor will post the class material on the Blackboard platform. This material is part of the course and, therefore, will be part of the activities and the exam.

As complementary bibliography the following books are interesting:

- Figuras del cómic. Iván Pintor
- La arquitectura de las viñetas. Rubén Varillas
- La máquina del mito. Between cinema and comics. Gino Frezza
- Graphic narratives. From the medieval codex to the comic. Roberto Bartual

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.