

Valencia Summer Program - AIP Introduction to Contemporary Spanish Cinema

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

SCHEDULE: Six weeks of classes, 3 hours per week.

DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to the modern Spanish cinema through the study and analysis of the most significant films of three Spanish directors; Pedro Almodóvar, Alejandro Amenábar and Julio Medem. The course also strives to provide a window into the Spanish culture through the study of the films by the above mentioned directors. The students will be presented with an introduction of each director according to the different films to be seen. The students will then watch and analyze a film, with class discussion about the most significant aspects of the movie. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the most representative aspects of modern Spanish society through cinema. DVDs of the films in Spanish with subtitles in English will be used in this course, along with handouts prepared by the instructor.

TOPICS:

Unit 1: Introduction to Spanish Cinema: Cultural Transition after Franco's death.

Objectives: To acquaint students with the social and cultural situation of this time, emphasizing the development of different expressions of art in a free democratic political system, and how cinema was affected by this change.

Unit 2: Pedro Almodóvar: The Cinema of the Transgression

Objectives: To acquaint students with the cinema of Pedro Almodóvar, his description of the "movida madrileña" of the eighties and his personal approach to the feminine world.

- 2.1 Biography and filmography
- 2.2 Aesthetics in his cinema
- 2.3 "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown": his jump to popularity
- 2.4 "All About My Mother" - An International Success

Films: "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" and "All About My Mother"

Unit 3: Alejandro Amenábar: The Freshness of Youth

Objectives: To acquaint students with the cinema of Alejandro Amenábar, his way of creating new stories, and his personal approach to his generation.

- 3.1 Biography and Filmography
- 3.2 Aesthetics in his cinema: Dialogues and music
- 3.3 "Open Your Eyes" and "Vanilla Sky": remake or plagiarism?
- 3.4 "The Others" - an international success

Films: "Open Your Eyes" and "The Others"

Unit 4: Julio Medem: Reality and Dreams

Objectives: To acquaint students with the cinema of Julio Medem, his description of characters and his circular structures.

- 4.1 Biography and filmography
- 4.2 Aesthetics in his cinema
- 4.3 "The Red Squirrel" - a new concept of love
- 4.4 "Lover of the Arctic Circle" - beginning and end

Films: "The Red Squirrel" and "Lovers of the Arctic Circle"

TEXTS:

- Cine para Leer, Equipo Reseña, Editorial Mensajero, 1982-2001.
- Veinte Nuevos Directores de Cine Español, Editorial Cátedra.
- Pedro Almodóvar, Editorial Cátedra.

EVALUATION:

Participation: Students are expected to participate actively in class (20%)

Final Exam: The exam will be related to the subjects covered in class.

Homework: Students will submit reviews of the films shown in class. The teacher will then go through corrections of each review. The completion of these assignments contributes toward the final mark (30%).

Attendance: Class attendance is regarded as an obligation as well as a privilege, and all students are expected to attend regularly and punctually to all classes in which they are enrolled. Unjustified absence will affect the final mark.