

## **Valencia Semester Program - AIP**

### **SPANISH CINEMA AFTER FRANCO: THREE DIRECTORS Fall**

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Description:** The objective of this course is to provide the student with familiarity of contemporary Spanish cinema through the study of three representative directors. As an important part of the course, projections from each of the three directors studied will be shown during class time, in DVD format. The films will be in Spanish with English subtitles. This will allow students to improve their knowledge of Spanish cinema and culture, as well as their Spanish language skills. Before each projection, students will be given notes with information concerning the film they are going to see.

#### **Topics:**

##### **Unit 1: Introduction to Spanish Cinema: an approach to Spain under Franco's regime.**

Objectives: To acquaint students with the political, social and cultural situation of Franco's regime, as well as the use of cinema as a means of expanding a nationalistic popular feeling.

1.1 Film: "Pan's Labyrinth"

##### **Unit 2: Introduction to Spanish Cinema: Cultural Transition after Franco's death.**

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

##### **Unit 3: Pedro Almodóvar: the cinema of the transgression.**

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

- 3.1 Biography and cinematography
- 3.2 Madrid in the eighties
- 3.3 Aesthetics in his cinema
- 3.4 "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" (Scenes selection)

- 3.5 The “Chica Almodóvar” concept
- 3.6 Film: “All about my Mother”: An international success.
- 3.7 Film: “Talk to Her”: The consolidation.

**Unit 4: 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.

- 4.1 Biography and cinematography
- 4.2 Aesthetics in his cinema: Dialogues and music
- 4.3 Film: “Thesis”: a star is born
- 4.4 Film: “Open your Eyes” and “Vanilla Sky”: remake or plagiarism?
- 4.5 Film: “The Others”: An international success
- 4.6 Film: “The Sea Inside”: The recognition of the critics.

**Unit 5: Julio Medem: reality and dreams.**

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

- 5.1 Biography and cinematography
- 5.2 Aesthetics in his cinema
- 5.3 Film: “Lovers of the Arctic Circle”: beginning and end

**Unit 6: Co-productions between Spain and South American countries.**

Objectives: To acquaint students with the links that exists between Spain and most South American countries and the new generation of directors who has brought a new touch for South American cinema.

- 6.1 Film: “Common Ground”

**Evaluation:**

Participation	20%
Quizzes	30%
First exam	25%
Final exam	25%

**Attendance:**

Unjustified absence will affect the final grade; three absences will decrease the final grade by 10%, six absences or more will decrease the final grade by 20%, and three tardies will be considered as one absence.

**Texts:**

*Cine para Leer*, 1982-2001. Equipo Reseña, Editorial Mensajero.

*Veinte nuevos directores de cine español*. Editorial Cátedra.

*Pedro Almodóvar*. Editorial Cátedra.