

Valencia Semester Program - AIP

A VIEW OF SPAIN THROUGH DIFFERENT GENRES OF CINEMA Spring

Language of Instruction: English

Description: The objective of this course is to provide the student with familiarity of the Spanish way of life through the study of different contemporary Spanish films, which reflect different aspects of Spanish culture. As an important part of the course, projections from each of the genres studied will be shown during class time, in DVD format. The films will be shown 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. For each unit, different Spanish films will be studied and the different points of view expressed by the directors will be analysed.

Topics:

Unit 1: Introduction to Spanish Cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with Spanish cinema and analyse the important role it has played in developing and disseminating different ways of thinking in Spanish society.

Possible film: "Los Otros"

Unit 2: Spanish historical cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with Spanish history through the analysis of a recent acclaimed Spanish film.

Possible films: "Juana la Loca"

Unit 3: Personal relationships cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with Spanish culture through the analysis of one film depicting love relationships of a young couple in modern Spain. Other films by this director, Julio Medem, will be discussed in order for students to understand his circular plots.

Possible film: "Lucía y el Sexo"

Unit 4: Spanish comedy

Objectives: To acquaint students with Spanish comedies, analysing the skills of Spanish directors in creating black comedies, satires and sarcastic portrayals of Spanish society.

Possible films: *Allegre ma non troppo, Belle Epoque, Cha cha cha, Cuarteto de la Habana, Gente pez, La comunidad, Novios, Salsa rosa, Todos a la cárcel, Todos los hombres sois iguales, A mi madre le gustan las mujeres...*

Unit 5: War cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with the Spanish Civil War and how it affected Spanish society from an introspective point of view. We will also examine the modern Spanish view on war and the different states of mind that soldiers go through during combat situations.

Possible films: *Guerreros, La Lengua de las Mariposas, La Niña de tus Ojos, Libertarias, Tierra y Libertad, ...*

Unit 6: Spanish social cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with different aspects of Spanish society, such as youth, drugs and alcohol, the elderly, poverty, homosexuality, child abuse, and violence.

Possible films: *La Buena Estrella, Barrio, El Bola, Celos, El faro del sur, Fugitivas, Historias del Kronen, La gran vida, Mensaka, Nada en la nevera, Nadie hablará de nosotras cuando hayamos muerto, Segunda piel, Sobreviviré, Solas, You're the one, ...*

Unit 7: Spanish horror cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with Spanish horror cinema and the typical fears of Spaniards. Psychological terror movies, thrillers, and the influence of American horror films on Spanish teenagers will be analysed.

Possible films: *El arte de morir, Los sin nombre, Nadie conoce a nadie, Plenilunio, ...*

Unit 8: Spanish fantastic cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with the Spanish fantastic cinema and the method of creating fictional stories based on common situations.

Possible films: *Acción mutante, El corazón del guerrero, El día de la bestia, Intacto, ...*

Unit 9: Psychological thriller

Objectives: To present the concept of a 'psycho thriller' and the tools utilised in this style of cinema. The importance of camera movements and sound effects will be discussed, as well as the idea of probability.

Possible film: *Impulsos*

Unit 10: Spanish literature and cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with the relationship between Spanish literature and its adaptations to the big screen. We will analyse how the same story can be expressed in different ways regarding different languages.

Possible films: *Los Santos Inocentes, Crónica del alba, El abuelo, La ciudad de los prodigios, La colmena, La pasión turca, Los santos inocentes, Pascual Duarte, Territorio comanche, Valentina, El viaje a ninguna parte, ...*

Unit 11: Spanish musical cinema

Objectives: To acquaint students with the Spanish musical and how it was used as propaganda during Franco's time.

Possible films: *El Otro Lado de la Cama*

Unit 12: Pedro Almodóvar's cinema

Objectives: To introduce students to the cinema of Pedro Almodóvar, analysing his previous films and concepts that appear in most of his work: the treatment of religion and family, love, sex and human relationships, and the role of women in society. A discussion about the rise of Hispanic cinema in the US will follow.

Possible film: *Hable con Ella*

Unit 13: What is the future of the Spanish cinema?

Objectives: To express different ideas about the possibilities of furthering Spanish cinema; analysing the extent of support from the Spanish government, the different producers, and cinema festivals and other factors to increase the making of new films.

Evaluation:

Students are expected to actively participate in class (20%). The final exam will be related to the subjects covered in class during the semester and it will be worth 50% of the final grade. Students will submit essays related to the subjects covered in class during the semester. The teacher will then go through corrections of each essay and the completion of this work will contribute towards the final grade (30%). Class attendance is regarded as an obligation as well as a privilege, and all students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes in which they are enrolled. Three absences will decrease the final grade by 10% and three tardies will be considered as one absence.