TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Never Too Many Movies: Spanish & Catalan Society through Cinema

UGRA_007152

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	5
Teacher responsible	Alejandro Fernández de Castro Krings - alex.fernandezdecastro@esade.edu

Course Goals

To acquire a deeper understanding of Politics and Society in recent Spanish and Latinamerican history through some of the best Spanish and Latinamerican movies produced in 20th and 21st Century.

Previous knowledge

No previous knowledge about Spanish or Latinamerican Cinema is necessary to take this course.

Prerequisits

No previous knowledge or research about Spanish or Latinamerican Cinema is necessary to take this course.

Teaching methodology

A Spanish Movie by a relevant Spanish film maker will be watched in almost every class. 80% attendance and active participation from students will be required. Participants will have to write two mini-follow-up tests, on final essay, make a group presentation about a Spanish movie other than the ones included on the syllabus, and contribute to on-line forums of discussion.

Description

Course contribution to program

To acquire a deeper understanding of Politics and Society in recent Spanish and Latinamerican history through some of the best Spanish and Latinamerican movies produced in 20th and 21st Century.

Short description

25 hour long course (10 sessions, 2,5 hours each), taught in English. A full movie will be watched entirely in class. Students will take to mini-tests to prove they remember main facts about each movie/film director. They will also make group presentations about Spanish and Latinamerican movies not watched in class.

Bibliography

Rob Stone, "Spanish Cinema", Pearson, 2001 (Book)
Barry Jordan and Rikki Morgan, "Contemporary Spanish Cinema", University of Manchester Press, 1998 (Book)

Frederic Strauss, "Almodovar by Almodovar", Faber & Faber, 2006 (Book)

Luís Buñuel, "My Last Sigh: The Autobiography of Luís Buñuel", Random House, 2013 (Book)

Virginia Higginbotham, "Spanish Film Under Franco", University of Texas Press, 1987 (Book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates
Impromptu debates and discussions will be carried during class. Student participation is highly encouraged.

Analytical exercises
Students will contribute opinions and analysis to forums of discussion posted on moodle (each for each movie included on the syllabus)

Written and/or oral exams
Students will take two 15 minute long mini-tests (mid-term and final) about the movies watched in class.

Readings
Before each movie is watched, the professor will provide a brief introduction to the movie, key biographical facts about the Director, etc.
Exceptionally, longer lectures will be carried by the professor (Spanish Movies before and during Franco's years)

Presentations
Each student will contribute to a 15 minute-long oral group presentation about a Spanish movie not included in the syllabus

Essays
Students will have to write one single final essay: 4 pages long at least, double spaced, with two sections: a) main take-aways from the course and b) a very personal analysis of any Spanish movie.

Content

#	Topic
1	"La Lengua de las Mariposas" by José Luís Cuerda: Spain on the brink of the 1936-1939 Civil War
2	"Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona" by Woody Allen: Barcelona through the eyes of a foreign film-maker + Cinema and Morals
3	"Volver" by Pedro Almodóvar: Spain after Franco's Dictatorship. Values, attitudes and customs in Modern Spain.
4	"Te Doy Mis Ojos" by Icíar Bollaín: Gender Violence in Spain
5	"Cebra", a short film directed by Félix Fernández de Castro and written by Alex Fernández de Castro. Students will learn how a script is written, and how it becomes a film.

#	Topic
6	"Los Olvidados" by Luís Buñuel: less compliant film directors during Francisco Franco's dictatorship (1936-1939)
7	"Diarios de Motocicleta", by Walter Salles. One of the best Latinamerican film produced in recent times, about Che Guevara, before he became a communist leader.
8	"Mar Adentro", by Alejandro Amenábar. Assisted Suicide in Spain.
9	"Priorat", a documentary directed by David Fernández de Castro. The success story of a few enterpreneurs, who turned Priorat, in Southern Catalunya, into one of the most prestigious wine-growing regions in the world.
10	"Ocho Apellidos Vascos", by Emilio Martínez Lázaro: the biggest commercial success in the history of Spanish Cinema. A romantic comedy about regional differences within Spain.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams	Mini-tests (mid-term and final)	Ordinary round	40.00%
Participation in program activities	Class Participation: Contributions to Forum, group presentation, attendance	Ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project	Individual final paper	Ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project		Retake	100.00%

PROGRAMS

AI26-Exchange Program Bachelor in Business and Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduates: Business)
AI26 Year 1 (Optative)

AI26S-Exchange Program Bachelor in Business and Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduates: Business)
AI26S Year 1 (Optative)

B13-Exchange Program Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
B13 Year 1 (Optative)

B13S-Exchange Program Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) (Undergraduates: Business)
B13S Year 1 (Optative)