



Recent Spanish Film

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: TLDO 3810

Number of Credits: 3 credits

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Contact Hours: 45 hours

Course Description

Our modern times are characterized by the primacy of audiovisual means of communication. This course proposed to increase the students' analytical capacity with respect to this audio visual language by studying ten Spanish films, through which they will come to know the most important styles of Spanish cinematography. Through these films, students will also come to a deeper understanding of social and political topics of high relevance to Spanish society in the 20th century.

Course Objectives

- For students to develop the skills necessary to analyze the visual techniques of film
- For students to reflect personally on the films seen in class and the topics discussed

Methodology

For each film to be studied, the professor will present an introductory class to impart to the student the historical, cultural, and societal information they need to understand each film. The film will then be viewed in class with commentary by the professor, and following several of the films, students will write a critical analysis or participate in a debate related to the film's topic.

Course Prerequisites

Spanish 1004

Required Reading / Materials

- TBD

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Exams	45%
Critical Analyses	35%
Debates	20%
Overall grade	100%

Course Content

Unit 1

- Introduction to the course
- View Film: *Bella Epoque* by Trueba
- Work in groups on debate

Unit 2

- Epic Political Films: Propaganda of Franco's dictatorship during the War
- View Film: *Raza* by José Luís Saéñz de Heredia
- Work in groups on debate

Unit 3

- Structural Film: Social crisis during political transition, end of the dictatorship
- View Film: *Cría Cuervos* by Carlos Saura
- Work in groups on debate

Unit 4

- Postmodern film: postmodern comedy, melodrama in the postmodern democracy at the end of the end of the century
- View Film: *Chachachá* by Antonio del Real
- Group work on debate

Unit 5

- Debate: Film and power in Franco's dictatorship
- Critical Analysis: *Raza* or *Cría Cuervos*
- Film: *Abre los Ojos* by Alejandro Amenabar

Unit 6

- Pedro Almodóvar and postmodern melodrama at the end of the 20th century
- Course evaluations
- View Film: *Carne Trémula* by Pedro Almodóvar
- Work in groups on debate

Unit 7

- Debate: Film and postmodern Spanish society
- Critical Analysis: *Chachachá* or *Abre Los Ojos*
- Review for Exam
- Midterm Exam

Unit 8

- No classes

Unit 9

- Dark humor in the postmodern Spanish melodrama
- View Film: *El Día de la Bestia* by Alex de la Iglesia

- Work in groups on debate

Unit 10

- New realism in the 21st century
- Spanish civic films in the 21st century
- View Film: *En Bolas* by Acheró Mañas
- Work in groups on debate

Unit 11

- Evil in postmodern film and Spanish civic film: compare *En Bolas* and *El Día de la Bestia*
- Critical Analysis: *El Día de la Bestia* or *En Bolas*
- View Film: *Te Doy Mis Ojos* by Iciar Bollaín
- Work in groups on debate

Unit 12

- The sinister and terrifying in Gothic film of the 21st century
- Postmodern film during the crisis of the 21st century: the evolution of Almodóvar and Gothic film
- View Film: *El Orfanato* by José Antonio Bayona
- Work in groups on film

Unit 13

- Women and the sinister in the 21st century: compare *Te Doy Mis Ojos* and *El Orfanato*
- View Film: *El Fiel que Habito* by Pedro Almodóvar

Unit 14

- The Evolution of Almodóvar: *El Fiel Que Habito* compared to *Carne Trémula*
- Review
- Final Exam

Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).