 SPAN*1500 Hispanic Film

Draft version

Fall 2023 Section(s): 01

School of Languages & Literatures
Credit Weight: 0.50
Lectures and seminars 3 hours per week

**Course Instructors:** Dr. Gordana Yovanovich

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course, taught in English, introduces students to cinema in the Hispanic world. Students will examine major works in the Hispanic cinematic tradition. Depending on the instructor, Spanish-language films from Spain, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, the United States, the Philippines or Africa may be included. Themes discussed will include the historical and artistic contexts in which the films were released, the economic and political difficulties facing film production and distribution, censorship, competition from Hollywood, concepts of genre, ideological commitment and the role of the director as well as issues such as poverty, migration, ethnic difference, political conflict and the roles of women and sexual and gender minorities.

1.2 Course Description

This course will introduce students to major Spanish and Latin American cultural and social phenomena through internationally known Hispanic films and telenovelas. In the long history of Spanish cinema, the great filmmaker Luis Buñuel (from the 1920s through the 1970s) was the first to achieve universal recognition, followed by Carlos Saura in the 1970 and Pedro Almodóvar in the 1980s. The Latin American cinema, driven perhaps more by ideologies than by aesthetics, has gained international acclaim for its presentation of important human and social themes. Films studied in this course will be analyzed for their cinematographic and their thematic contributions.

This course is planned as a face-to-face course.

**Timetable:** Combination of lectures and group discussions: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 11:20am.
1.3 Final Exam
There will NOT be a final exam in this course.

2 Instructional Support
Prof. Gordana Yovanovich, gyovanov@uoguelph.ca
Office hours in person: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:20, or by appointment.
Office location: MCKN 277
Email communication is encouraged. Emails will be answered within 24 hours.

3 Learning Resources
All readings will be posted on Courselink or available electronically through the University of Guelph library.
Here you will find everything that you need for the course, including the course outline; assigned readings; assignment instructions; the audio files for the weekly lectures; the lecture-accompanying PowerPoint presentations; links to course material on Course Reserves (ARES); and news updates pertaining to assignments, classes, and any other course-related matters.
All films will be available to view electronically via the University of Guelph library.

3.1 Required Resources
Week 1 Sept. 7 Introduction
Week 2 Sept. 12 Introduction to Cinema and Hispanic films. Sept. 14 Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón *Don Quijote*

Week 3 Sept. 19 and 21 *Don Quijote*


Week 5 Oct. 3 Films by Carlos Saura, Oct. 5 Cria Cuervos (1976)


Week 9 Oct 31 TEST. Nov. 2 Review of the test and upcoming essay proposal requirements.

Nov. 3, 40th class day
Week 10 Nov. 7 Central Station/Central do Brasil is a 1998 drama film directed by Walter Salles. Nov. 9 *The Motorcycle Diaries/ El diario de motocicleta* (2004), a film about Che Guevara. Directed by Brazilian director Walter Salles and written by Puerto Rican playwright José Rivers.

Week 12  Nov. 21 Recommend a Hispanic film- student presentations. Nov. 23 Recommend a Hispanic film- student presentations.  
Week 13  Nov. 28 Recommend Hispanic film- student presentations. Nov. 30 Conclusions. **Final Essay Due.**

### 4 Learning Outcomes

#### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

- **Global Understanding:** Contextualize films within specific Peninsular Spanish, Spanish-American contexts.
- **Global Understanding:** Display basic cultural knowledge about the Hispanic world.
- **Professional and Ethical Behaviour:** Understand and employ film analysis in a manner that illustrates professionalism in relation to genre, film movements, issues of gender, national and ethnic identity.
- **Literacy:** Correctly employ technical and critical vocabulary to analyze film.
- **Global Understanding:** Demonstrate intercultural competence, global understanding and creative thinking.
- **Communicating:** Be familiar with, and apply, theoretical and analytical approaches to film.

### 4 Teaching and Learning Activities

A week-by-week detailed schedule will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

### 5 Assessments

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<th>Form of Assessment</th>
<th>Weight of Assessment (%) of final grade</th>
<th>Course Content/Activity</th>
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<td>2 film reviews presented in class in a group</td>
<td>2x12% = 24%</td>
<td>Film reviews of 1000 words (4 double-spaced pages) in which the student develops an analysis of one film viewed in the course; though intended to inform a potential viewer as to whether they would enjoy the film, this review will demonstrate the student’s analytical skills, mastery of context and critical vocabulary.</td>
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Test 20%
Short answer questions. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the films. Preparation for the test will help students prepare for their essay writing.

Participation 16%
will include active participation in class discussions and in group work resulting in written reports (submitted in class). Written and oral participation will be assessed on (a) the quality and (b) the quantity of your contributions. Please attend all classes and come to class prepared, having done all the weekly readings/viewings.

Assignment 10%
Plan for Final Essay: to prepare for the essay, students are required to submit an essay plan, which should include the following: your essay title/question; (ii) a short thesis statement (i.e. what will be arguing in your paper); (iii) an essay outline (showing how the essay will be structured/organized); and (iv) a preliminary bibliography (indicating a minimum of 4 scholarly sources which will support your main argument.

Essay 30%
8-10 pages in length, double spaced. More information regarding the final essay will be provided on the CourseLink.

Late Penalties:
• Late assignments will be automatically penalized at the rate of 5% per day (i.e. for every day that the essay is late, including weekends, you will lose 5% of your final mark for it: so, for example, a student who submits a paper one week late will automatically lose 35% of his/her mark).
• Papers should be submitted in Dropbox by 11.59 p.m. on the due date.

University Statements