

FALL 2020
HISP 341: SPANISH CINEMA

Professor V. Ceia

Time and Location: Virtual and Flexible Delivery



Course description:

In recent years, award-winning filmmakers such as Pedro Almodóvar, Icíar Bollaín, and Isaki Lacuesta have brought Spanish cinema to the fore of international screens. But how does Spanish cinema emerge and develop? What themes persist throughout the course of its century-long history? And what, if anything, can Spanish cinema tell us about “Spanishness,” gender, the nation, race, and identity politics? Does cinema reflect a culture and society or shape it? This course outlines historical, aesthetic and thematic trends in Spanish cinema, from the silent and surrealist films of Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí in the 1920s to the experimental works and global partnerships of the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Focusing on topics such as nationhood, gender and sexuality, memory, violence, autism, landscape, family, spectatorship, and religion, this course will train students in film analysis, teach them to interrogate critical social issues through film, and provide an eclectic introduction to Spanish culture in context. By the end of the semester, students will have gained the skills to think and write critically about film in Spanish, as well as a deeper understanding and appreciation of Spain’s diverse culture, history, and cinema. Classes, films and assignments will be in Spanish. Secondary readings will be in English or Spanish.

Prerequisite:

Successful completion of any Survey of Literature (HISP 241, HISP 242, HISP 243, HISP 244) or permission of the instructor.

Virtual Meeting Times and Locations:

Fully virtual and flexible, with optional drop-in discussion sessions on Thursdays, 2:35pm-3:15pm. The Zoom link for discussion sessions will be posted on MyCourses, as will details about virtual office hours.

Mode of Delivery

To accommodate students working in different time zones, this course will be offered with an entirely flexible and asynchronous schedule. This means that there will be no required fixed class activities or meetings. Weekly lectures and PowerPoints will be recorded and posted to myCourses by the start of each week. Activities and quizzes will be posted online as well. Despite the remote and flexible nature of the course, students will be opportunities to participate and work with partners or small groups via discussion boards on myCourses and group projects or presentations.

On Thursdays at 2:35pm, I will hold 45-minute drop-in discussion sessions via Zoom for students who wish to further discuss the week's materials. Those who can attend, are strongly encouraged to do so. Those who cannot, should post their questions to the course Discussions board ahead of the discussion session. Students are encouraged to collaborate and respond to their fellow students' questions, both in-class and on the discussion boards.

I remind everyone of their responsibility in ensuring that all videos, lectures, and associated materials are not reproduced or placed in the public domain. This means that each of you can use it for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it, by putting it up on the Internet or by giving it or selling it to others who may also copy it and make it available. Please refer to McGill's [Guidelines for Instructors and Students on Remote Teaching and Learning](#) for further information. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Technical Requirements

All students are required to have access to a computer, the internet, and a microphone. Use of webcams are strongly encouraged to foster a sense of community in our virtual classroom. We will use **Zoom** and the link to the meetings will be posted on myCourses. Please do the following before you join the course:

- Create a basic account by clicking on the following link: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/> You must sign in with your McGill username/password. Having a Zoom account will help you facilitate virtual meetings for collaborative assignments.
- Read this article on [getting started](#). If the link does not work, go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>
- Contact your instructor if you do not have a webcam or microphone, so that we can find a solution together and make appropriate accommodations.

Remote Learning Resources

Since learning remotely is a new skill that we all have to acquire, I would encourage you to look at the resources that McGill's Teaching and Learning Services compiled:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students/remote-learning-resources>

Consider looking at all the tips, particularly the following points:

- [5 Strategies for Success](#)
- [Study Tactics](#)
- [Learning Strategies Inventory](#)
- [Learning with Zoom](#)

Copyright

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Materials and Access:

Required Texts:

Barry Jordan and Mark Allinson, *Spanish Cinema: A Student's Guide*. (Bloomsbury, 2005). Available for purchase at Le James Bookstore at 688 Sherbrooke Street W.

Assigned Films will be available via McGill's streaming services, including Kanopy and Criterion-on-Demand, Netflix, iTunes, or Google Play, or they will be posted to MyCourses. Most films will have Spanish subtitles, and when none are available, English subtitles. Consult the updated syllabus in myCourses for details on where to access each film.

Requirements and evaluation:

5%: **Participation:** in either/both the drop-in discussion sessions on Thursdays or the online Discussion Board (flexible). Participation includes: asking critical questions, responding to your peers' questions during the drop-in sessions or on the Discussion board; generally engaging with the course materials and your peers. During live discussion sessions, students may be called on by their professor to participate.

20%: **Quizzes (4):** short and long answer questions (online). Quizzes will be time-bound and available for 24 hours as of the start of class session (on the assigned date). In other words, once you open the quiz, you will have limited time (between 20 and 40 minutes, depending on quiz length) to complete it.

20%: **Midterm Exam:** short- and long-form analytical questions. Your knowledge of film terminology and ability to close-read and identify film scenes will be tested. Duration: 75 min.

Online. The exam will be time-bound and available for 48 hours as of the start of the class session on exam day. Once you open the exam, you will have 90 minutes to complete it.

25%: Group Presentation (to be recorded and posted to myCourses) and Study Guide: The class will be divided into groups of 5 to select films for the Student-Curated Film Series/*Festival estudiantil de cine*, scheduled in October-November. The purpose of this activity is to give small groups of students the opportunity to explore a topic, theme, film, or genre of interest. Perhaps you are interested in learning more about queer cinema, race and representation, global co-productions—you name it. This is your group’s chance to curate a portion of the syllabus and explore a topic that you are passionate about.

In the fall, your professor will circulate a list of film titles that students must research, as well as a worksheet/questionnaire that each student must complete. The worksheet will ask you to identify your top 3-4 film choices from the provided list, note the rationale behind your film selections, identify the themes and issues that your selected films address, and what you believe each title would contribute to the overall course. Students will post their questionnaire answers on the Discussion Board in order to start forming groups according to their thematic interests.

By the Friday prior to the week that your group’s film will be discussed “in class,” your group will post its **presentation** to myCourses along with a **list of guided questions/a study guide for your group’s film** (1 solid, well-thought-out question per group member, edited by all members of the group, and delivered as a single-document in the “Discussions” section of myCourses). The week of your film’s presentation, group members who can, should attend the Thursday drop-in discussion session. Those who cannot will be responsible for responding to student questions on the Discussions Board.

Evaluation for this assignment will be based on three components:

- 1) **Participation in group discussions (in-class or on Discussion Board)– 5%**
- 2) **Question in the study guide – 5%**
- 3) **Presentation – 10%**
- 4) **Peer review – 5%**

30%: Final Paper: You will write a final paper (7-8 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins) **due via myCourses on the final scheduled class of the semester.** The topic of your final paper is open, and you are encouraged to write on a topic that suits your personal interests, but you must write on one or two films studied in the course, applying formal analysis in the service of an original argument. You may use up to three secondary sources in your final paper. All references and works cited should be formatted according to the latest edition of the MLA Style Guide. **Late penalty:** 10% per day for late essay submissions, up to 3 days. After 3 days, student will receive a grade of 0 on the assignment.

McGill Policy Statements

Language of Submission:

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives. The language of submission for HISP 341 is SPANISH.

Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/> for more information).

Mobile Computing and Communications Devices in Class:

1. All McGill policies must be respected at all times; those of particular relevance are highlighted. The use of MC2 devices must, in all cases, respect policies and regulations of the University, including in particular the following: 1. The Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures; 2. The Policy Concerning the Rights of Students with Disabilities; 3. The Policy on the Responsible Use of McGill IT Resources.

2. Due to the potential use of MC2 devices for recording and voice communication, such use is not permitted without explicit permission. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor. MC2 devices are not to be used for voice communication without the explicit permission of the instructor.

3. Mobile computing and communications devices are permitted in class insofar as their use does not disrupt the teaching and learning process.

Additional Statements:

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

******PLEASE NOTE:** Many of the texts, images, and films treated in this course contain shocking and graphic content, including coarse language, sexual situations, nudity, gore, and gender-based violence, including rape. Please consider this before registering for the course.