



**ART/SPAN 333E Film Nations:**

**Comparative Perspectives on Spanish and U.S. Cinema.**

**Professor:** tbd

Office: CUI-UPO Building 25, ground floor

Email: tbd

Office hours: by appointment

**Course Information:**

June 2021 (online)

**Course Description**

The course is aimed at establishing the points of convergence and divergence between the history, economy, aesthetics, and social significance of film production in Spain and the United States. Issues like the following will all be addressed:

- The political economy of American vs. Spanish cinema (industry, technologies, State policies on film, independent production, etc).
- Main trends, movements and significant works and authors in both Spanish and U.S. cinema.
- Film as social and cultural indicator (how do Spanish and U.S. Cinema deal with past and contemporary social dilemmas? How does film relate to ideology and politics in the local and global scenarios?...).
- Audience reception (in which ways have Spanish and American audiences related historically to domestic and foreign film productions? Are there distinctive “film cultures” in both countries?...).
- Spanish and American cinema at the crossroads with other arts and cultural discourses.

**Course Goals and Methodology**

- To understand cinema as a multidimensional phenomenon: technological, industrial, artistic and social.
- To explore two contrasted cinematic traditions.
- To reflect on the ways film operates between the global and the local, the universal and the culturally and historically specific.

The course includes online lectures, debates, screenings and film discussions, exams, and field research (\*small group work) on a topic to be discussed with your professor.

**Learning Objectives**

- Increase visual and media skills.
- Discuss film in its industrial and technological dimensions.
- Recognize different trends, traditions/genres, authors and film movements in both Spanish and U.S. Cinema.

- Apply film theory to the analysis of individual films (in-class screenings).
- Gain some basic vocabulary to explore the art and technique of filmmaking.
- Relate film to larger debates on nationality and globalization.
- Understand the ideological/political dimension of film.
- Complete a project meeting previous learning objectives.

### Required Texts

All course material, including Power point presentations, readings, study guides and handouts for the screenings will be available on Blackboard (virtual platform).

### On-line dictionaries:

- ❑ <http://www.diccionarios.com>
- ❑ <http://www.rae.es/>
- ❑ <http://www.wordreference.com/>

### Websites

- <http://www.afi.com/> - Official website of the American Film Institute (AFI).
- <http://www.mecd.gob.es/cultura-mecd/areas-cultura/cine.html> - Official website of the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Education and Sports, including a link to a comprehensive Spanish film database.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Students' progress will be checked by class participation, debates, an oral presentation, a response essay, two pop quizzes, and two exams (mid-term plus final). The final grade is broken down as follows:

1. Participation (2)	10%
2. Project	30%
3. Pop quizzes (2)	10%
4. Midterm + Final	50% (25% + 25%)

### Participation

Students will come prepared to class, reading the daily assignment from material posted on Blackboard. Lively discussions will be encouraged at all times. Class participation will therefore be graded in accordance to both the students' previous readings and reflection about the assigned texts and screenings, and also their daily contribution to class discussion and debates with relevant (text-based and not random or just personal experience-oriented) comments. Two different participation grades will be administered during the semester: one right before the midterm exam, and another before the final exam.

\*Class participation rubrics:

	Levels of Performance			
Criteria	0 Unsatisfactory	1 Poor	1,5 Proficient	2 Excellent
<b>1. Preparation:</b>	No preparation whatsoever (no knowledge on case materials and readings), frequent absences.	Rarely demonstrates preparation; knows some reading facts only.	Adequate preparation (knows reading facts and main points).	Excellent preparation (analyses cases and offers evaluation of topics).
<b>2. Behavior:</b>	Always disruptive.	Present, not disruptive.	Rarely disruptive, mostly engaged.	Never disruptive, always engaged.
<b>3. Listening skills:</b>	Unattentive and disruptive, never listens.	Rarely listens when others speak.	Listens when others speak.	Always listens and builds off of the ideas of others.
<b>4. Overall level of engagement in class:</b>	Refuses to involve in class discussions.	Does not offer much to contribute to class discussions.	Demonstrates ongoing involvement.	Consistent, ongoing involvement; contributes in a very significant way.
<b>5. Engagement in group activities:</b>	No involvement whatsoever.	Sporadic involvement in group activities.	Ongoing involvement.	Participates voluntarily and greatly contributes to group activities.

### Project

Students will work in small groups (no more than three students) to comply with this assignment. Each group of students will be asked to present on one topic from a list of suggested topics provided by the professor. In getting ready for this assignment, students should carry out a previous and intensive research on the chosen topic. Every group will get the professor's guidance during the process of research. Every group is expected to produce a clear, concise and illustrative Power Point/Prezi presentation, on which extra material (images, Youtube videos, website links...) may be included. The time limit for each presentation is 20 minutes; \*make sure: a) not to exceed your allotted time, and b) not to present for less than 15 minutes). The professor will be available via email to solve any questions on the presentations, and will also provide information on grading parameters.

### Pop quizzes

Students will be asked to complete short quizzes aimed at grading their specific knowledge of the different topics of the suggested readings with a focus on detail. These quizzes will be exclusively based on the information from the readings assigned for a given session. There will be no prior announcement for the quizzes, they will be scheduled randomly throughout the course. Missing class without a medical excuse will not be considered a reason for rescheduling a quiz.

### Exams

Exams are aimed at evaluating both the students' specific knowledge of the topics covered in class and their ability to analyze and provide insightful reflections on the material presented in the readings. Questions will cover the contents of the related section/s of the syllabus (\*the final will NOT be cumulative) and focus on establishing thematic links between units. The final exam's date will be announced in class. Exam dates will not be changed under any circumstances.

Exams and every other assignment will be marked following the Spanish numerical range. Here is a table to illustrate differences in conversion between the Spanish, U.S. and Standard European grading systems:

SPAIN	10	9,9	9,4	8,9	8,4	7,9	7,4	6,9	6,4	5,9	5,4	4,9
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		9,5	9	8,5	8	7,5	7	6,5	6	5,5	5	0
USA	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	F
ECTS	A	B	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	E	E	F

Essential factors in order to qualify for an A/A+ grade in this course are:

- To comply with reading assignments on a weekly basis.
- To develop analytical and critical skills.
- To participate in class voluntarily and to contribute to discussions with informed reactions.
- To show excellent writing and interpretative skills when submitting papers and/or exams.

### Class Contents

#### I. DIMENSIONS OF FILM

What is film?

(Post) film in the era of Youtube and Netflix

Film as a technological medium, art, and commodity

Film Studies basics: The language of film

## **II. EARLY CINEMA**

The political economy of early Spanish and U.S. cinema & Film pioneers

## **III. THE CLASSICAL FILM**

The Hollywood system vs. upheavals in film production in Spain

Hollywood genres: The Western as American (film) mythology.

Classicism and specificity in Spanish Film

## **IV. HOLLYWOOD DECLINE AND SPANISH DISSIDENTS**

Towards the end of classicism

The Conversaciones de Salamanca.

## **V. THE NEW WAGES**

Hollywood in transition & *Realismo crítico* in Spanish cinema

## **VI. THE EMERGENCE OF GLOBALIZED CINEMA IN THE NEOLIBERAL AGE**

The New Hollywood.

Cinema in Spain: From the Transition period to globalization.

## **VII. (POST-)CINEMA IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

The political economy of world cinema in the digital age

Mainstream cinema vs. *Cine resistente* in Spain

Final projects presentations

## **General Course Policies**

Punctuality and tardiness: Arriving late to class, even an online class, is disruptive to both the professor and your classmates.

Communicating with instructor: Please allow at least 48 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails. The weekend is not included in this timeframe. If you have an urgent request or question for your professor, be sure to send it during the week.

## **Learning Accommodations**

If you require special accommodations, or have any other medical condition you deem may affect your class performance, you must speak to the Faculty Coordinator (rdialop@acu.upo.es) to either send in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is June 9. Rubén will explain the options available to you.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory at all online classes. All absences must be justified by a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated). More than one unjustified absence will adversely affect your final grade. Professors will keep track of each student's attendance and active participation during the course. Students are expected to have their webcams turned on during the online sessions.

## **Academic Honesty**

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

## **Behavior Policy**

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade.

\*This syllabus is subject to change.