Syllabus Spanish 3386
Screen Memories: Spanish Culture Through Film
Spring 2007

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:45  and Thursdays 4:00-5:00.

Warning: Some of the films viewed for this course are rated NC17. You will be warned ahead of time as to the extent of the sexual content of a film. Those expressing objections may substitute the viewing of those films for others chosen in conjunction with the instructor.

Course Description:
Prerequisites: SPAN 3301 or 3307 and SPAN 3302 or 3308. May apply to major and minor in Spanish. Taught in Spanish. Provides the student with the basic elements of cinematic language and a critical overview of Spanish film production through study of the films within their historical, cultural, thematic, and aesthetic context.

“Screen Memories” examines cinematic works of both Post-War (1939-1975) and Democratic Spain (1975-present), integrating historical, sociological, political and aesthetic contexts, as well as the history of cinematography as an art form, and the critical analysis of film as artistic expression. The course consists of the screening, close study, and analysis of at least twelve Spanish films. Additional films will be viewed independently. Each screening is accompanied by reading assignments, preceded by a lecture and followed by a discussion. While readings and lectures aim at presenting the films within their historical, social and aesthetic contexts, the discussions encourage students to respond critically to it. There will also be readings regularly posted on our webct page.

Writing Assignments: Students are required to write at least eleven “Film Analysis” that incorporate the appropriate critical content. Ten will be from films viewed in class, and one from either Pan’s Labyrinth or Volver, which will be viewed independently at the movie theatre. Homeworks are due the week following the screening (most films are available commercially, or in the Language Acquisition Center, for additional viewings, ignore the date on turnitin.com). Every assignment must be written in Spanish.

This is a webct/hybrid course. Since we will take up valuable class time viewing the films, it is crucial that you access the additional content on the web page. You will find the specific assignments for each week there, along with a variety of additional readings and exercises, as well as the instructor’s written notes accompanying the class lectures. Remember, you only need to write 10 of the assignments, you decide which ones
depending on your interest in the specific film, and if you write more than 11, the additional ones will just be factored into the average.

Learning Outcomes:
• Students will be able to write an academic film analysis.
• Students will be able to write five page analysis using grammatically correct Spanish at an advanced level.
• Students will be able to demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of particular periods Spain in the XIX through XXI centuries.
• Students will have the skills to understand the visual techniques used for communicating through film.
• Students will develop an appreciation of what distinguishes film as an art form.

Grading Procedures:
Attendance and viewing of the films 15%
11 of the weekly assignments 85%

Course Content:
Introduction to cinematography. Basic film terms.
Cinema as an art form.
History of Spanish Cinema.
Aspects of film production, economics, and reception.
Introduction to methodologies of film criticism.
Cinema as cultural product.
Comparison with other art forms.
Historical, political, economic, sociological contexts for Spanish film.
Establishing a basis for aesthetic judgment of film.
Continual practice of oral and written analytical skills.

The course is divided into three main thematic units that often overlap, in which we will study the following films.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**JANUARY**

**Section 1: Historical Revisions from Democratic Spain**

18-- *Belle Epoque* (dir Fernando Trueba, 1992)

OVER THIS WEEKEND OR NEXT YOU MUST GO SEE A FILM AT THE MOVIE THEATRE. HERE ARE YOUR TWO OPTIONS AND COMPLETE THE WRITING ASSIGNMENT: (double-check show times)
Pan's Labyrinth

Landmark Greenway (1 mi)
5 Greenway Plaza East
Houston, TX 77046 Map
12:00pm | 2:15pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:15pm | 9:30pm

Edwards Houston Marq*e 23 (5.1 mi)
7620 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024 Map
1:30pm | 4:25pm | 7:50pm | 10:50pm
No Online Ticketing

AMC Theatres Studio 30 Theatres (5.4 mi)
2949 Dunvale Street
Houston, TX 77063 Map
10:00am | 12:30pm | 3:00pm | 5:25pm | 7:55pm | 10:30pm | 12:55am

Volver

Landmark Riveroaks 3 (2.6 mi)
2009 West Gray
Houston, TX 77019 Map
12:00 / 2:45pm | 5:30pm | 8:30pm

25 La lengua de las mariposas (dir. José Luis Cuerda, 1999)

FEBRUARY
1—¡Ay! Carmela (dir Carlos Saura, 1990)
8— Los soldados de Salamina (dir David Trueba, 2002)
15— En la ciudad sin limites (dir Antonio Hernandez 2003)

Section 2: Social and Historical Revisions from the Fascist Period

22— NO CLASS DUE TO A CONFERENCE (will have a home assignment)

MARCH
1--Marcelino, Pan y Vino (dir Ladislao Vajda 1954)
7-- El Ultimo Cuplé (dir Juan de Orduña 1957)
22-- Muerte de un ciclista (dir Juan Antonio Bardem, 1955)
29— Bienvenido Mister Marshall (dir Luis García Berlanga 1957)

APRIL

Section 3: Gendering National Stereotypes in Spanish Film – Matadors, Flamenco and Religious Fanatics
5 — Carmen (dir Carlos Saura 1983)
12 — Amantes (dir Vicente Aranda 1991)
19 — Hable con ella (dir Pedro Almodóvar 2002)
26 — Te doy mis ojos (dir Iciar Bollain 2003)