

SEVI 485: Contemporary Spanish Pop Culture

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1. Course Description

This is an optional course designed to explore contemporary Spanish popular culture. To approach this topic, the class will employ a wide variety of materials that will help the students understand the evolution of Spanish society from different cultural perspectives.

2. Methodology

The class will be taught in Spanish, so students must have fluency in both oral and written Spanish. The class will combine in-class lessons with some out-of-class activities in which students can experience cultural events firsthand and apply knowledge obtained in the class. Classes will be dynamic, and students are expected to participate actively.

3. Manual

The course pack will be available in the copy store.

WEEK 1- Presentation and introduction: Dismantling myths and clichés

WEEK 2- Freedom of expression: from the end of the Franco dictatorship to the “gag law”

WEEK 3- Freedom of expression

WEEK 4- Written media (newspapers, magazines, vignettes, etc.)

WEEK 5- Written media

WEEK 6- Audiovisual media (television, radio, youtube...)

WEEK 7- Audiovisual media

WEEK 8- Spanish cinema

WEEK 9- Spanish cinema

WEEK 10- Comics

WEEK 11- Women in Spanish society

WEEK 12- Music: from “cantautores” to television stars

WEEK 13- Oral presentations and review

4. Evaluation

- ***In-class Participation: 25%***
 - ***Mid-term exams (2): 20% (10% each)***
 - ***Essays (3): 15% (5% each)***
 - ***Out-of-class activities (2): 10% (5% each)***
 - ***Oral presentation: 10%***
 - ***Final exam: 20%***
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- The class schedule may undergo some modifications throughout the semester
 - For the essays and the out-of-class activity reports, students have to write a total of 10 pages. They can divide these pages as they like, but each written piece must be at least 1 page long. Example: Essay 1: 2 pages; Essay 2: 1 page; Essay 3: 3 pages, Activity 1: 2 pages, etc.
 - Before the Final exam, the students will know the most relevant material to study, and further, there will be a class dedicated to review for the final exam
 - In-class participation will be evaluated for both individual and group participation, and based on students’ interest and motivation to learn and improve
 - Out-of-class activities consist of attending a cultural event: a film, a concert, an exhibition, a play, etc. There will be three different events listed in the calendar, of which students will pick 2. They will then write a review of at least 1 page (these two written works, combined with the essays, must be 10 written pages total)
 - Oral presentations will last 10 minutes (15 minutes if done in a group of 2) and can be about any topic discussed in class. Students can also choose a different theme, with the professor’s approval. They can also choose to work individually or in pairs.
 - The grading system will be the same as the Spanish system: from 0 to 10, with 5 being a pass (C).
 - Two absences are allowed. After the second absence, each additional unexcused absence will result in a penalty of 1 point off of the final grade.