Dalhousie University

Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies

Identidades hispanas a través del cine

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OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

- To acquire a deep understanding of aspects of different cultures and identities of the Spanish speaking world.
- Enrich students’ communication skills through the knowledge of Spanish - speaking cultures using films, texts, class discussion and blogs.
- Understand the relevance of contemporary and historical events, sociocultural, geopolitical, etc. in the Spanish - speaking world and beyond.
- To be aware of the local Hispanic community, their problems and artistic expressions.
- To develop skills in oral and writing competence.
- To be able to discuss and support ideas in Spanish.
- To be able to compare, find the differences and similarities between cultures and identities.
- To extend Spanish vocabulary.
- Improve formal academic writing and speaking by elaborating presentations to an audience based on research and analysis.
COURSE ORIENTATION

This course intends to prepare students who have completed second year Spanish to acquire a deep understanding of the aspect of different cultures, identities and diversity the Hispanic world can offer. The course will focus on developing Spanish language skills in oral/writing competence through the analysis of the films, their directors and the larger historical and social context. Students will be capable of making comparisons, break down stereotypes, understand the cultural manifestations and find similarities with their own ones. Students will view films and write about the films from the Spanish-speaking world as primary assignments, besides the activities in the textbook which will give them the opportunity to use language in a meaningful way to discuss the different cultural aspects portrayed in the films, while further developing their proficiency in the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

The book we are going to use is organized using a historical framework that is specific to the Spanish speaking world. The book is organized into four units that portray some of the most prevalent social, historical, and political facets of the Spanish - speaking world: Memoria y olvido, Inmigración y exilio, Las identidades marginalizadas, and El mundo hispano en la globalización.

This course also intends to give students the opportunity to practice their critical thinking skills throughout the chapters in a variety of exercises that require a profound understanding, reflection, an open mind and analysis of the films. The main goal is for students to approach the study of another culture as a different set of knowledge that ultimately enriches their own views of the world and bring up their empathy.

MATERIALS AND REQUIRED TEXTS

DEPARTMENT GRADING SCALE:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>0-49%</td>
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COURSE EVALUATION:

To assess students’ performance in this course, I will combine the following components:

GRADE BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation components</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a. Participation, preparation and discussion</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. BbLearn comments</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Film reviews, reseñas (4)</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Individual/ Group Presentation</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Tareas (5)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>5. Exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>6. Cultural Events (3)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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1. a. Participation/ Preparation/ discussion in class:

This course will require a great amount of communication in class and in BbLEarn. An effort to communicate, think and participate in class, online discussions and activities must be evident and will be great part in your participation grade. Class participation in Spanish is a vital part of your language learning experience. Evaluation can occur at any time, either during previously assigned tasks or at any other given time a student may produce a representative written, listening, reading or oral sample. You are graded on the following factors DAILY and they will determine much of your participation grade:

   o Being well-prepared for the class. To participate actively, you will need to come to class well prepared in terms of revising vocabulary lists, watching assigned movies, searching the Internet for relevant information about a specific topics, and willing to talk. Oral communication does not imply perfection, but it does necessitate an increasing ability and willingness to convey what you want to say in Spanish.

   o Discussion in class. Making positive contributions to the class; alertness and positive attitude. For each chapter we will have some discussion based on the book. For these, you will have to come prepared, having researched ahead and be able to have an open mind to talk with the rest of the class.

   o Regular use of featured cultural vocabulary.
   o Analyze and think critically about topics and defend your opinions.
   o Volunteering to answer and ask questions.

Be aware that just attention the class will not get you a satisfactory grade in this component.

b. BbLearn – Online participation

You will participate in four (4) BbLearn electronic discussions that will deal with various issues of interest related with the topics of the movies. Your instructor will post a text to which you will react/ respond in writing, during a specified time frame. Students are expected to research the topics on the Internet, analyze the information, summarize and raise questions. Your active participation in the discussion board will be part of your participation grade. You are expected to write at least 100 words per each. You are also expected to post your first message no later than 48 hours after the beginning of the discussion board. In addition, you must demonstrate that you have read what your classmates have written about the same topic, by making comments on what they write, showing your agreement, disagreement, etcetera. Both increased accuracy (vocabulary, grammar, discourse connectors) and fluency in writing are expected.
2. FILM REVIEWS, RESEÑAS

You will write a short paper (in Spanish, double-spaced, 12 pt. font) on a topic related to the film you have seen during each chapter. There are 5 in total. The length is approximately 500 words. You will find the directions in your BbLEarn and there will be a sample review/reseña posted in there.

3. INDIVIDUAL/GROUP CHAPTER PRESENTATION

On designated dates during the semester you and your group will have to present a topic related to a specific theme that will be assigned to you by your instructor. Your instructor will provide a series of sources to guide you. Each presentation should last up to 6 minutes. You will be asked to supplement your presentation with Power Point. Each presentation will be followed by a short questions and answer session. This is individual/group work because aspects of the introduction may be delegated to individuals that together form a collective introduction of the chapter (country/film).

4. TAREA

Part of the homework will include vocabulary, search about the topic that will be presented in class (Antes de ver la película) and questions regarding the student’s presentations and guest speaker’s participation. Also, there is no such thing as extra credit work. Electronic submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. You will have to hand this in BEFORE class starts.

5. EXAM

There will be an exam that will cover course discussions, films and chapters.

6. CULTURAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students must attend at least three cultural events related to Hispanic cultures during the semester. A short reflection on cultural aspects is required. A reflection is 2-3 paragraphs in Spanish. (One paragraph is made of 5 sentences). You must also state clearly what you learned from each outside experience. Ask the instructor if you need help finding/participating activities. Hand-in your documentation of this course component on the last day of class.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

CLASS POLICY:

- Class starts on time.
- Exam must be taken on date and at time indicated on syllabus.
- No late assignments.
- No eating in class.
- Phones and pagers must be **turned off and put away** while in class.
- Lap top computers may be used **only to facilitate in-class work**.
- Disagree with others and respect views of others in a civil manner.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is extremely important in this course and goes hand in hand with your participation grade. Repeated absences, tardiness, passivity, and silence will definitely be reflected in your course grade. Each student is allowed of **five** absences total, after the sixth your participation grade will be “0”. All absences, for whatever reason, count, including but not limited to absences due to illness, family emergencies and religious holidays. Any classes missed need to be fully make up (see tentative schedule) and are the responsibility of the student.

**MAKE-UP EXAM:**

There are no make-ups exams.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities should register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services if they want to receive academic accommodations. To do so please phone 494-2836, e-mail access@dal.ca, drop in at 6227 University Ave., or visit the website at www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca.

**OSAA SYLLABUS STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATION**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y Courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain Form A Request for Accommodation.
A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium of 75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that the classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM**

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

*What does academic integrity mean?*

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people’s work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student’s responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met.

*How can you achieve academic integrity?*

We must all work together to prevent academic dishonesty because it is unfair to honest students. The following are some ways that you can achieve academic integrity; some may not be applicable in all circumstances.

- make sure you understand Dalhousie’s policies on academic integrity (see http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/Policies/)
- do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- do not falsify data or lab results

Be sure not to plagiarize, intentionally or unintentionally, for example...
• clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work. This includes computer codes/programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images

• do not use the work of another from the Internet or any other source and submit it as your own

• when you use the ideas of other people (paraphrasing), make sure to acknowledge the source

• do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor (These examples should be considered only as a guide and not an exhaustive list.)

Where can you turn for help?

If you are ever unsure about any aspect of your academic work, contact me (or the TA):

• Academic Integrity website (see http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/)
  - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing

• Writing Centre (see http://writingcentre.dal.ca/)
  - Assistance with learning to write academic documents, reviewing papers for discipline-specific writing standards, organization, argument, transitions, writing styles and citations

• Dalhousie Libraries (see http://www.library.dal.ca/)
  - Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks

• Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (see http://www.dsu.ca/services/advocacy)
  -Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures.

• Senate Office (www.senate.dal.ca)
  -List of Academic Integrity Officers, discipline flowchart, Senate Discipline Committee

What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

As your instructor, I am required to report every suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Faculty Discipline Flow Chart see http://senate.dal.ca/Files/AIO_/AcademicDisciplineProcess_Flowchart_updated_July_2011.pdf and includes the following:
• Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors

• Based on the evidence provided, the AIO decides if there is evidence to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process

• If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved

• If you are found guilty of an offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning, to failure of the assignment or failure of the class, to expulsion from the University. Penalties may also include a notation on your transcript that indicates that you have committed an academic offence.

If you are unsure about how this applies to your work in SPAN 2150, please consult with me. You are not to use Internet translation programs for your compositions or ask proficient speakers, TAs, tutors or classmates for corrections to your writing assignments; they may only help you find your mistakes, guide you to reason out the solution to your problems, or give you grammar explanations. If I suspect that you are not following these guidelines, I will consider this a violation of the intellectual honesty policy and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.