



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Spain I Program, Summer 2021

SPAN 306-1 Spanish Cinema

Professor: Dra. Kajsa Larson

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the genre of short films, *cortometrajes*, of Spain and the film techniques used to both entertain and express opinions about social concerns. Through the analysis of film techniques, students will improve upon their written and oral skills, as well as expand their critical-thinking skills about film and social concerns both within Spain and beyond. A series of cortometrajes may be shown along with excerpts from full-feature films.

Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

COURSE OUTCOMES: By analyzing the cultural themes of this course, successful students will be able to identify, think critically, and articulate some of the major, as well as lesser-known, social and cultural issues of twenty-first century Spain, and explain the cinematographic techniques used to express them. These outcomes will be assessed through a weekly journal, class presentation, and take home essay.

This course is taught in Spanish.

Required materials for students:

- 1) One spiral (or other bound) notebook (for taking notes and writing assignments in class)
- 3) small (pocket) notepad for taking notes while out and about in Spain
- 4) printed copy of all reading materials, which will be made available to students through KIIS website. All materials must be printed before leaving the U.S.
- 5) small Spanish/English dictionary

Additional Resources:

- 1) Students can gain access to full-length features from Spain with a subscription to <https://flixole.com> (3 euros per month)
- 2) A selection of short films, *cortometrajes*, can be found at <http://freespanishshortfilms.com/>

Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify a variety of Spanish film directors and their productions
- Discuss the culture of Spain and some of its social concerns
- Compare film production in Spain and those of other countries, including the United States
- Describe film techniques used to portray social topics
- Exchange and express feelings and opinions both orally and in writing
- Interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics

Additional suggestions:

The class is intricately connected to the experience of living abroad, and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of their surroundings to improve their language skills. Students who make a sustained effort to use only Spanish outside of class throughout the program will do well in class, without exception.

Recommendations for success:

- 1) Do not sequester yourself at (your Spanish) home.
- 2) Grow your confidence to ask questions—even to people you do not know.
- 3) Make friends...and make a pledge with them to speak only in Spanish, even outside of class!
- 4) Be social and flexible. You will be expected to work collaboratively as well as independently in class to generate knowledge and improve your language skills. The class assignments may require social interaction with locals. Embrace this opportunity fully, productively, enthusiastically, and respectfully!

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to abide by the university's guidelines regarding academic integrity. As indicated in the undergraduate catalogue, "Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal" (27).

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory for classes and field trips. For one absence the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. For two absences, the student fails the course. Absences for legitimate reasons will be excused, but students have the responsibility to inform the instructor and the director of the program.

Evaluation

The following grading scale will be used in this course:

A: 90 – 100

B: 89 – 80

C: 79 – 70

D: 69 – 60

F: Below 60

SPAN 306 Assessment:

Class participation: 25%

Film journal entries: 25%

Group presentation and facilitation of group discussion: 10%

Attending a film: 15%

Final Project: 25%

Class participation and preparation. Each student will be expected to participate actively in all class activities in Spanish. Daily participation points (10 points per day) will be assessed using some of the following criteria.

10 points: The student uses Spanish at all times to express ideas in class (in small and large group setting), always comes prepared, volunteers answers and comments. He/she is a group leader and encourages peers to participate.

9 points: The student uses Spanish at all times, is almost always well-prepared, volunteers some answers and comments but may need prompting.

8 points: The student uses Spanish most of the time, is usually prepared, provides some answers and comments but not often voluntarily.

7 points: The student uses Spanish but also relies on English to express concepts that he/she does not know, comes prepared, is an active listener but is hesitant to engage actively in small or large group conversation.

6 or less points: The student uses more English than Spanish, is off-task or distracts other students from the task at hand, is not prepared, does not listen or engage actively in small or large group conversation.

Film journal entries: Students will be expected to keep a journal about each film that we watch in class. They should discuss their general impressions of the movie and develop comments about some of the film techniques that they found interesting. Journal entries will be handed in on a weekly basis. All journal entries shall be written in Spanish.

Group presentation and facilitation of class discussion: Students will be divided into groups. Each group will be required to present information about one of the class films, its corresponding director, as well as information about the film's success in Spain. After, the student group will prepare a list of discussion questions for the class about the film and assigned reading and facilitate a conversation about it. The student group should also reflect on the film techniques used to communicate its message.

Attending a film: During the summer, Madrid often features film festivals. To truly experience film in Spain, students must attend a cinematic production in a Spanish theater. After, they will write about this experience in Spanish (to hand in to the professor, along with their ticket stub).

Final project: Students will select one of the films that we watch in class and develop and detailed film analysis of it. The final project should incorporate the class reading, any pertinent information about the film director, and the concepts that we studied in “Introduction to Spanish Film.” This assignment, written in Spanish, will be handed in on the last day of class.

Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus’ disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / andrea.anderson@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/brochure2019update.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.