



## KIIS SPAIN Program, Summer 2023

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### SPAN 306 Experiencing Spanish Abroad: Spanish Cinema

**Instructor:** Prof. Itzá Zavala-Garrett

**Email:** i.zavala-ga@moreheadstate.edu

**Instructor's office hours:** After class and by appointment

*Syllabus subject to change*

**1. Course Description:** This course introduces students to cinema studies and how this medium is used to depict social issues including the Spanish Civil War, domestic violence, physical and mental disabilities, and immigration, among other topics. Through the analysis of film techniques, students will improve upon their listening, written and oral skills, as well as expand their critical thinking skills about film. They will also gain enhanced knowledge of these cultural concerns both within Spain and beyond.

### 2. 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.

**3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning 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)
2. Small (pocket) notepad for taking notes while out and about in Spain
3. Printed copy of all reading materials, which will be made available to students through a Google Document and email. All materials must be printed before leaving the U.S.
4. Online Spanish/English dictionary such as:  
<https://www.spanishdict.com/translation>,  
<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/translator...>

**Learning Objectives.** After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Be familiar with, and able to discuss, a variety of Spanish film directors and their productions.
- Increase understanding of the culture of Spain and some of its social concerns.
- Make connections between social concerns in Spain and those of other countries, including the United States and Latin America.
- Recognize and describe film techniques used to portray social topics.
- Exchange and express feelings and opinions both orally and in writing.
- Understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

**4. Major Topics covered in the Course:** Short films are an exciting and ever-evolving form of storytelling in the digital age. This course explores 7 Spanish short films plus a regular movie by Pedro Almodóvar, the master of contemporary cinema, as well as the new and innovative techniques filmmakers are currently using to tell their stories about immigration, illnesses, war, domestic violence, among other current topics.

1. *Volver* (2006), Pedro Almodóvar
2. *El orden de las cosas* (2010), César E. y José Alenda
3. *Probervio chino* (2010), Javier San Román
4. *Zepo* (2014) César Díaz Meléndez
5. *Namhala* (2015) Nacho Solana
6. *Cuerdas* (2014), Pedro Solís García
7. *Ni una sola línea* (2018) Víctor E.D. Somoza
8. *Vecinooo* (2020), Paco León

**5. Required Readings and Materials:** Professor Zavala-Garrett will provide reading materials and film's links.

**6. Graded Assignments.** 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: 30%*

*Film journal entries: 30%*

*Group presentation and facilitation of group discussion: 20%*

*Attending a film: 20%*

***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, Segovia and Madrid often features films in movie theaters and film festivals. To truly experience film in Spain, students must attend a Spanish cinematic production in a theater. After, they will write about this experience in Spanish (to hand in to the professor, along with their ticket stub).

**7. Attendance Policy:** KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

**8. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**9. 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, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto:michael.crowe@wku.edu)) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / [joshua.hayes@wku.edu](mailto: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/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.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.