



KIIS Spain II Program, Summer 2024

SPAN 490 Spanish Cinema

Instructor: Prof. Carmen Arranz Ordás

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course presents an overview of Spanish cinema in the 21st century. We will use movies, as well as academic readings and discussion, to analyze a variety of issues under debate in Spain today. The selected materials will allow students to better comprehend the diversity of Spanish society and to examine critically what they experience in their daily lives during their stay in Segovia. Issues covered in this class are regional and national identities, gender constructs, domestic violence, physical and mental disabilities, immigration and emigration, sexual politics, and unemployment, among others. Taught in Spanish.

Prerequisite: *At least 18 credit hours of college-level Spanish or equivalent at time of program departure.*

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: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Interpret Spanish films, taking their social, economical, and historical context into consideration, and establish connections between social concerns in Spain and those of the US.
- Recognize the most relevant contemporary directors in Spain, and identify their most well known themes & styles.
- Identify, think critically, and articulate an educated opinion on some social and cultural issues of 21st century Spain;
- Identify daily-life habits in Spanish culture in a wide variety of settings (how people in Spain interact, cook, travel, play, get married, raise their children, spend their free time, what non-verbal communication they use, etc).
- Summarize research on cultural issues, and organize and explain it clearly and accurately both in written and oral form.
- Use reasoning and analytical skills, in addition to demonstrating Intermediate high/Advanced low proficiency level in all four language skills.

Warning: Since these films are European, many of the directors have a different understanding of censorship (especially related to sexual content and expression, and nudity). If these items or topics may be a problem or concern, a student should consider enrolling in another course.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course: 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: regional and national identities, gender constructs, domestic violence, physical and mental disabilities, immigration, emigration, sexual politics, and unemployment, among others.

This course explores the following full-length films:

Te doy mis ojos (2003), director Icíar Bollaín.

El buen patrón (2021), director Fernando León de Aranoa.

Dolor y gloria (2019), director Pedro Almodóvar.

Mientras dure la guerra (2019), director Alejandro Amenábar.

Ocho apellidos vascos (2014), director Emilio Martínez-Lázaro.

Frente al mar (2002), director Chus Gutiérrez.

Vivir es fácil con los ojos cerrados (2013), director David Trueba

5. Required Readings and Materials: Professor Arranz Ordas will provide reading materials and film's links.

6. Graded Assignments:

The grade will be assigned as follows:

- 20% Class participation and preparation
- 15% Screening journal
- 15% Oral presentations
- 20% Response papers
- 20% Final project
- 10% Attending a film

Class participation and preparation (20%). 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.

Screening journal (15%). You will keep a notebook and take notes on each assigned film. I suggest that you make notes both during and after the screening. If you take notes during the screening and write them up immediately after you see a film, you will get more out of class discussions, and your writing about the films will be more substantive. Journal entries will be handed in on a weekly basis. All journal entries shall be written in Spanish.

Oral presentations (15%). Before we watch a movie, each student will be required to research and present information on a variety of topics that will help us to better understand each of the movies: directors' biography, style, and work; geographical locations; cultural issues. These presentations will be assigned and researched in class, and we will work on them collaboratively before we watch a movie.

Response papers (20%). After each movie, students must complete an assignment responding to a precise question announced by the professor. Students are expected to critically discuss the given topic including—but not limited to—his/her opinion. 200-400 words.

Attending a film (10%). During the summer, Segovia and Madrid often feature Spanish 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).

Final project (20%). Rather than a final exam, you will have a final project. The point of this project is to establish a connection between the cultural topics that we discussed in class, our observations during our stay in Segovia in relation to that topic, and our own life. You should create a visual object (a poster, ad cutouts, short video, etc) that reflects and brings together a topic in those 3 areas: the movie, your experiences abroad this summer, and you life in the US. This is a personal creation and you will have to present it (in Spanish) to the class.

The following grading criteria will be used to determine the final grades for this course:
A (90-100), **B** (80-89), **C** (70-79), **D** (60-69), **F** (0-59).

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, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify 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 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) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@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.