

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2021-2022** SPAN325: Introduction to Cinema  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Ruétalo  
Office: Arts 209E  
E-mail: [vruetalo@ualberta.ca](mailto:vruetalo@ualberta.ca)  
Course Website: on E-class

Time: T, R 9:30-10:50  
Place: Remote Delivery  
Office Hours: F 10:00-11:00  
or by appointment

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Technology requirements (minimum):**

- o A computer to connect to the class for remote delivery
- o Zoom to connect to the class
- o Access to Google Apps

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

- Yes       No, not needed

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course will focus on key examples of contemporary cinema from Spanish America and Spain to introduce the analysis of film, the use of film terminology, and basic film theory in Spanish. Using a transatlantic approach and by discussing the changing role of film in today's world we will study both the formal aspects of film form and the cultural and social context of their production.

At the end of the course successful students will be able to:

- o Analyze and discuss films of various genres and through their formal approaches in

- different historical contexts of Spanish America and Spain.
- o Engage with the medium of film and its different formal structures, in particular the key concepts in filmmaking, to understand how form helps to construct meaning.
  - o Demonstrate critical writing skills using the formal aspects of films to comment on both the structure and the content of the films.
  - o Analyze, argue, and communicate ideas about films in both written and oral formats.
  - o Accept constructive feedback and revise work accordingly.
  - o Work collaboratively in a shared environment to achieve a common goal.

### **Course Format:**

The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, assigned readings, student presentations, partner and group discussions and activities, and audio-visual materials.

### **Texts:**

#### *Required:*

Selected readings are available in E-class through provided links.

#### *Recommended:*

David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction* (University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019). [In Reserve at Rutherford Library]

Rosario Alonso Raya, Alejandro Castañeda Castro, Pablo Martínez Gila, Lourdes Miquel López, Jenario Ortega Olivares, José Plácido Ruiz Campillo, *Gramática básica del estudiante de español* (Difusión, 2012) [In Reserve at Rutherford]

### **Additional Course Fees**

- Yes       No

### **Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 2, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

### **Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

- o **3 Essays 35%:** Essay #1 (2 pages: 5%; due on September 23, 2021); Essay #2 (4 pages: 10%; due on October 28, 2021); Essay #3 (5-6 pages: 20%; due on December 7, 2021)
- o **2 Take-home Term Tests 30%** Term Test #1 (October 14, 2021: 15%); Term Test #2 (November 25, 2021: 15%)
- o **Presentations in Partners 20%** (Must select date and topic provided on sign-up sheet by the end of Week 3. Presentations will appear in E-class and will be part of the course content to appear on tests)
- o **Class Participation 15%** (This means not only attendance but active and meaningful participation in class discussion and activities).

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Guidelines for essays and take-home tests will be provided on E-Class. You will also find evaluation rubrics for essays and presentations on E-class.

**Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

**In this course**, attendance will be documented and will be factored as part of the participation component of the course. If a student misses more than half of the classes s/he will automatically receive a 0% participation grade. Also note that simply attending the course will not guarantee a high participation grade, so it is essential for the student to actively participate individually or in group activities.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**

Students who consult in advance with the professor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the professor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, assignments will incur a 5% per class day penalty.

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:**

***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of

consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Language and Translation Courses: delete this section if not applicable***

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[The Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

**Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct.

Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

| Descriptor   | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | %             |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. | A+           | 4.0               | <b>95-100</b> |
|  | A            | 4.0               | <b>90-94</b>  |
|  | A-           | 3.7               | <b>86-89</b>  |

|   |                                    |                   |  |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.  |                                    |                   |  |
| <b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.  | <b>B+</b><br><b>B</b><br><b>B-</b> | 3.3<br>3.0<br>2.7 | <b>82-85</b><br><b>75-81</b><br><b>70-74</b> |
| <b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.          | <b>C+</b><br><b>C</b><br><b>C-</b> | 2.3<br>2.0<br>1.7 | <b>66-69</b><br><b>61-65</b><br><b>58-60</b> |
| <b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter. | <b>D+</b><br><b>D</b>              | 1.3<br>1.0        | <b>55-57</b><br><b>50-54</b>                 |
| <b>Failure.</b>   | <b>F</b>                           | 0.0               | <b>0-49</b>                                  |

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