

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: World Languages
Course: Spanish Cinema
Level: Spanish VI-HH
Credits: 5.0

Course Description:

Spanish Cinema is a course structured around viewing, discussing, and analyzing Spanish films in order to promote a better understanding of Latin American and Spanish societies and to explore the contemporary issues observed in the film. Each film will be considered as a work of art in a historical, literary, and cultural context. In this class, film will be used as a medium to explore and analyze aspects such as:

- stylistic elements (narrative, characterization, plot and symbolism)
- cultural elements (class, gender, political views, and immigration)
- technical aspects of cinema (cinematography, sound, and special effects)

Our main goal is to expand and strengthen oral proficiency in the Spanish language by focusing on listening comprehension, interactive verbal communication and essential writing skills. Literary short stories and certain songs will be reviewed in coordination with some of the films.

Standards:

World Languages Standard: 7.1
ACTFL Level: Advanced-Low

Anchor Text(s):

Teacher Packets for each student are to be given to students.

Supplementary Materials:

List of Films:

- El Norte
- Buen día, Ramón
- La misma Luna
- María llena eres de gracia
- Sugar
- También la lluvia
- Diarios de Motocicleta
- Guantánamera
- Viva Cuba
- La lengua de Mariposa
- Ay, Carmela
- El Laberinto del Fauno
- El Viaje de Carol
- Voces Inocentes
- De eso no se habla
- El Mar Adentro
- Volver
- 200 Cartas

Units of Study:

- Immigration – themes explored include assimilation, marginalization, socioeconomic differences, the duality of being, and interpersonal relationships.
- Spanish Civil War - themes explored include relationship between time and space, traditions, religion, nature, the duality of being and interpersonal relationships.

- The Dirty War and the Water War – themes explored into socioeconomic differences, interpersonal relationships, imperialism, patriarchal systems, and public image.
- Cultural Groups and Norms – themes explored include nationalism, regionalism, interpersonal relationships, hardship and friendship, love, machismo, and nature.

Proficiencies:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate a high level of language proficiency by conversing more fluently and confidently in a variety of contexts.
- Demonstrate a deeper knowledge of Spanish grammar and vocabulary in order to understand, summarize, and recreate scenes of each film.
- Interpret films and clearly express those interpretations in writing.
- Identify and elaborate the core argument of each film or reading in order to produce their own analysis in formal or informal presentations.
- Demonstrate a higher degree of intercultural awareness of our world’s changing social environment vis-à-vis the cultural diversity in the Spanish-speaking world.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development and cultural impact of film as an art form.

Evaluation & Assessment:

Oral Proficiency & Classwork:	30%
Tests and Projects:	30%
Homework:	15%
Quizzes:	25%