

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 SPAN 399 A2: Cinema for Spanish Conversation
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Stephen A. Cruikshank
Office: Old Arts Building, 217-D
Telephone: 780-660-3880
E-mail: scruiksh@ualberta.ca
Class Website: See eClass site.

Time: M/W/F 11:00 - 11:50 pm
Place: HC 2 29
Office Hours: By appointment

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.

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

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

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will focus on conversational abilities through the discussion of feature films from a variety of countries in the Hispanic world. In the films chosen, we will hear natural language in context, be exposed to a variety of regional expressions and accents, learn about the histories and cultures of different countries, and have a wealth of material to discuss in class, in pairs, in small groups, and in class presentations. Participation in this course will prepare students for further coursework in culture, literature, and civilization at the 400 level.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Increase fluency in oral Spanish.
- Enhance Spanish vocabulary.
- Expand knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviours, ideas, and values expressed in films from Hispanic countries.
- Analyse, argue, and communicate ideas about film in Spanish.
- Compare and contrast Hispanic cultures through the medium of film.

Texts:

Required: The class textbook can be purchased at the U of A bookstore.

- Mary McVey Gill, Deana Smalley, & María -Paz Haro, *Cinema For Spanish Conversation, Fourth Edition* (2014).

Recommended: The following text can be found at the reserve section of the Rutherford Library.

- Alonso Raya, R., Castañeda Castro, A., Martínez Gila, Pl, Miquel López, L., Ortega Olivares, J., & Ruiz Campillo, J.P. *Gramática básica del estudiante de español (Edición revisada y ampliada)* (2011).

Films: All films are available either online through links found on the U of A library system or will be made available at the reserve section of the Rutherford library.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Fall Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 can be found at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2018-winter-2019-exam-planner>

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade Percentage</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
• Class Participation & Attendance	15%	Cumulative
• Film Trailer Presentation	15%	TBA
• Oral Exam I	20%	Oct 24, Oct 26
• Oral Exam II	20%	Dec 5, Dec 7
• Film Presentation Proposal	10%	Oct 12
• Film Presentation	20%	Nov 19, 21, & 23

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

- Please consult the following site:
[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))
- For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**Class Participation & Attendance (15%)**

Being that the focus of this course is on conversation, class participation will be extremely important. In this class students are expected to attend all lectures and engage in class discussions as they will be graded for their attendance as well as conversational participation and activities in each class. An absence without a valid reason will result in a complete loss of the grade for the day missed. Class readings and films will be explained in advance on eClass. As a student you are responsible for coming to class prepared to participate in group and class discussions revolving around the day's film, readings, and discussions. Approximately half of the class will be dedicated to watching the film while the second half will be dedicated to a lecture and discussion regarding the film.

Film Trailer Presentation (15%)

Individually students will be responsible for choosing one of the films represented in the textbook that are not viewed in class. The student will be responsible to conduct a 5-7 minute presentation on the film, acting like a film "trailer" of sorts that introduces students to the film's director, principal actors, location, plot, and their own opinion and rating of the film out of 5 stars. Furthermore, students must provide a series of no less than 5 conversation questions that deal with important themes or topics in the film which will be presented to the class for discussion following the presentation. Note that, where possible, images should be provided of the film on a PowerPoint presentation. A list of presentation dates will be provided in the first week of class.

Oral Exam 1 & 2 (20% each = total 40%)

Two oral exams will occur throughout the semester. The first exam will cover the first three films discussed in class, while the last exam will cover the last three films. Each exam will last approximately 8-10 minutes. Students will need to respond in Spanish to a variety of questions directed at them concerning the three films in discussion. Students will be graded on their use of proper grammar, pronunciation, adequate fluency, and knowledge of the three films in question. A list of possible question topics will be provided in advance.

Oral Presentation Proposal (10%)

Students will be responsible to read an article about a film and write a short 2-3 page proposal in Spanish. The proposal is for a 10-12 minute class presentation of the article's thesis and subject about the film. The chosen film must be represented in the textbook, but not viewed in class. Furthermore, the student must choose a different film than what they chose for the trailer presentation. Although the presentation will be conducted in group of 2-3 students, each student will be required to read the chosen article and write their own 2 page proposal outlining the aspects of the article that they will be presenting. In addition to the proposal writing, an MLA formatted bibliography including the film, the article, and at least 2 other sources of investigation should be attached. Writing should be times new roman, 12 pt font, double spaced, MLA 2018 format.

Oral Presentation (20%)

Using the information acquired and investigated in the presentation proposal assignment, students, in groups of 2-3, will provide a presentation to the class of 10-15 minutes in duration on their chosen film and article. Background information such as the title, the director, principal actors, plot, and public review of the film should be provided before discussing the article in question. A list of presentation dates will be handed out in class in the weeks prior to the first presentation date.

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 (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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](#).

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.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement:

“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.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

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).

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.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will incur a 5% per class day penalty.

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>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

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.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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	%
Excellent. 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. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. 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+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. 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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. 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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

Copyright: Stephen Cruikshank, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2018

SPAN 399
Cinema for Spanish Conversation

READING SCHEDULE (Sept 5 - Dec 7)

** Note: It is the students responsibility to watch each film before the first "temas de conversación" class.*

Week 1: Semana de introducción

LESSON 1, Sept 5 (W) : Introducción al curso.

LESSON 2, Sept 7 (F): Introducción al cine hispano

Lectura: Marvin D'Lugo, Ana M. López, Laura Podalsky, "Introduction" in *The Routledge Companion to Latin American Cinema*

Week 2: *La misma luna* (México/Estados Unidos, 2007: Patricia Riggen)

LESSON 3, Sept 10 (M): Introducción a la película

Lectura: Capítulo 1, pp. 1-6

LESSON 4, Sept 12 (W): Temas de conversación I.

Lectura: Capítulo 1, pp. 6-10

LESSON 5, Sept 14 (F): Temas de conversación II.

Lectura: Capítulo 1, pp. 11-13

Week 3: *La misma luna* (México/Estados Unidos, 2007: Patricia Riggen)

LESSON 6, Sept 17 (M): Presentaciones de trailers I.

LESSON 7, Sept 19 (W): Temas de conversación III.

Lectura: Capítulo 1, pp. 13-15.

LESSON 8, Sept 21 (F): Más allá de la película.

Lectura: Capítulo 1, p. 16-18

Week 4: *Guantanamera* (Cuba, 1995: Tomás Gutiérrez Alea)

LESSON 9, Sept 24 (M): Presentaciones de trailers II.

LESSON 10, Sept 26 (W): Introducción a la película

Lectura: Capítulo 7, pp. 103-108

LESSON 11, Sept 28 (F): Temas de conversación I.

Lectura: Capítulo 7, pp. 108-111

Read "Soy un hombre sincero," José Martí

<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/yo-soy-un-hombre-sincero-sincere-man-am-i.html>

Listen to "Guantanamera"

○ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jaoXKpi7N4>

○ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jh2RcKanSp4>

Week 5: *Guantanamera* (Cuba, 1995: Tomás Gutiérrez Alea)

LESSON 12, Oct 1 (M): Presentaciones de trailers III.

LESSON 13, Oct 3 (W): Temas de conversación II.

Lectura: Capítulo 7, pp. 112-114

LESSON 14, Oct 5 (F): Más allá de la película

Lectura: Capítulo 7, pp. 115-119

Week 6: *María llena eres de gracia* (Colombia/Estados Unidos, 2004: Joshua Marston)

NO LESSON, Oct 8 (M): Thanksgiving Holiday. (No Class)

LESSON 15, Oct 10 (W): Introducción a la película

Lectura: Capítulo 8, pp. 121-125

LESSON 16, Oct 12 (F): Propuesta de la presentación de la película

Temas de conversación I.

Lectura: Capítulo 8, pp. 126-128

Week 7: *María llena eres de gracia* (Colombia/Estados Unidos, 2004: Joshua Marston)

LESSON 17, Oct 15 (M): Presentaciones de trailers IV.

LESSON 18, Oct 17 (W): Temas de conversación II.

Lectura: Capítulo 8, pp. 129-132

LESSON 19, Oct 19 (F): Más allá de la película

Lectura: Capítulo 8, pp. 133-135

Week 8: Semana de exámenes

LESSON 20, Oct 22 (M): Presentaciones de trailers V.

LESSON 21, Oct 24 (W): Examen Oral #1, día 1

LESSON 22, Oct 26 (F): Examen Oral #1, día 2

Week 9: *No* (Colombia/Estados Unidos, 2012: Joshua Marston)

LESSON 23, Oct 29 (M): Presentaciones de trailers VI.

LESSON 24, Oct 31 (W): Introducción a la película

Lectura: Capítulo 11, pp. 177-182

LESSON 25, Nov 2 (F): Temas de conversación I.

Lectura: Capítulo 11, pp. 182-185

Week 10: *No* (Colombia/Estados Unidos, 2012: Joshua Marston)

LESSON 26, Nov 5 (M): Presentaciones de trailers VII.

LESSON 27, Nov 7 (W): Temas de conversación II.

Lectura: Capítulo 11, pp. 185-194

LESSON 28, Nov 9 (F): Más allá de la película

Lectura: Capítulo 11, pp. 195-199

Week 11: Semana de lectura

NO LESSON, Nov 12 (M): Remembrance Day Holiday (no class)

NO LESSON, Nov 14 (W): Fall Term Reading Week (no class)

NO LESSON, Nov 16 (F): Fall Term Reading Week (no class)

Week 12: Semana de Presentaciones Orales

LESSON 29, Nov 19 (M): Presentaciones de películas, día 1.

LESSON 30, Nov 21 (W): Presentaciones de películas, día 2.

LESSON 31, Nov 23 (F): Presentaciones de películas, día 3

Introducción a la película *Volver* (2007)

Lectura: Capítulo 16: pp. 273-278

Week 13: *Volver* (España, 2007: Pedro Almodóvar)

LESSON 32, Nov 26 (M): Temas de conversación I.

Lectura: Capítulo 16: pp. 278-284

LESSON 33, Nov 28 (W): Temas de conversación II.

Lectura: Capítulo 16: pp. 285-290

LESSON 34, Nov 30 (F): Más allá de la película

Lectura: Capítulo 16: pp. 291-294

Week 14: Semana de exámenes

LESSON 35, Dec 3 (M): Presentaciones de trailers VIII.

LESSON 36, Dec 5 (W): Examen Oral #2, día 1

LESSON 37, Dec 7 (F): Examen Oral #2, día 2
