Español 370: Hispanic Culture through Film  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:30 – 2:50 pm  
Fall 2007  
DeFrancesco 207  
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Office: DeFrancesco 15B  
Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00  
Fridays 12:00 – 1:00  
Thursdays 12-1:30 and 3:00-3:30  
Other hours available by appointment

Course description: This course is designed to introduce students to the history, politics, social and economic issues of the Spanish-speaking world through the medium of film. Issues such as immigration, exile, machismo, homophobia, globalization, as well as other topics are explored. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: Spanish 212, or the permission of the instructor.

Objectives of the course:
- to identify themes in individual films;
- to identify and analyze historic, social, economic and political issues present in the films;
- to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish through oral presentations and discussions of films;
- to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish through a variety of written assignments on the films;
- to demonstrate fundamental knowledge of film criticism to compare and contrast films with regard to content, style and ideology.


Responsibilities of the student:
- To watch all of the assigned movies and to take notes on them;
- To attend class and to participate in the discussion and class activities to the best of your ability;
- To follow the rules of classroom decorum. Common classroom courtesy fosters an environment that is essential for learning. Distractions, such as but not limited to, lateness, unrelated conversations, unnecessary exits, use of cellular phones [including text messaging], beepers, and eating, will not be tolerated. Students
must shut off their cell phones before entering class. Students are also expected to visit the restrooms before class begins. No tobacco products are allowed in class. Students who come to class inebriated/high or whose behavior is disruptive, will be asked to leave or will be removed by public safety officers. (See Student Conduct Regulations on pg. 46 of the Student Handbook).

To speak to the professor privately and in person if you are unclear about any assignment or have any concerns about the class or your grade.

To activate your KU e-mail account and to check messages regularly.

To turn in your own work which was written specifically for this class. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the assignment and therefore a reduction in your semester grade.

Assessment:

A (100-90) = Excellent work of consistently high standard, showing distinction.

B (89-80) = Good work in such qualities as organization, accuracy, originality, understanding, and insight.

C (79-70) = Satisfactory work which fulfills essential requirements in quality and quantity and meets the acceptable standard for graduation.

D (69-60) = Work which falls below the acceptable grade point average standard, yet is deserving of credit in the course.

F (below 60) = Work that is not deserving of credit for the course.

Breakdown of semester assessment:

1) Participation in classroom discussion and activities: (15%) In order to maximize your learning and your academic experience in the class, you must participate fully and to the best of your ability in each class session. Your attendance forms the base number for your participation grade. I begin with the percentage classes attended. If you miss 14 of the 28 classes, for instance, your base participation grade (your highest possible grade) would be 50% (14/28). Only medical excuses and emergencies constitute valid reasons to miss class. I may ask you to provide an excuse written and signed by the proper authority. Please be aware that frequent tardy arrivals eventually add up to a class missed.

In general, excellent participation means volunteering answers, always speaking in Spanish, executing reading assignments on time, preparing conscientiously for class, and taking responsibility for your own learning. If you do this, your overall performance will be enhanced, e.g. you will earn better grades.

2) Oral Reports: (15%) As part of our preparation for the viewing of each film, students will research and present cultural information to the rest of the class. The topics will be assigned by the instructor.
3) **Quizzes: (15%)** There will be a quiz after the scheduled viewing of each film. Material may include the plot, basic knowledge of the characters, the vocabulary introduced by the instructor as well as any cultural information presented during the pre-viewing class. Although there are no make-up quizzes, the lowest quiz grade is dropped when calculating averages for the semester. A zero on a quiz for any reason will be the dropped grade.

4) **Critical Analyses: (30%)** Students will write three original critical analyses of two to three (2-3) pages each. Any paper not typed (12-point font, New Times Roman) will be returned unmarked and ungraded. All papers should follow MLA guidelines.

5) **Viewing Journal: (15%)** Students will keep an electronic viewing journal with an entry on each film. For possible full credit, the journal entry for each film must be sent via e-mail (under subject please write the film title) to the professor at her KU address by the start of the class session when the film is discussed. Although no late journal entries are accepted, each student will be allowed to skip or miss one entry without penalty at the end of the semester.

6) **Film project: (10%)** This group project will provide a capstone experience to the course. Students will write the script, rehearse and film their own mini-movie. Presentations of this final project will take place during finals week.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY** (as stated in the KU Student Handbook)
Kutztown University is committed to the personal and intellectual growth of its students. The principal context in which this growth occurs is the University’s courses, and the educational process depends upon an open and honest atmosphere of positive cooperation between faculty and students. In order to maintain this atmosphere, professors must evaluate the academic performance of students fairly and students must demonstrate their mastery of subject matter honorably. Any acts of academic dishonesty by students, such as plagiarism on written papers or cheating on exams, threaten to undermine the educational and ethical goals of the University for its students. Such violations are of the utmost seriousness. The goal of the following policy and procedures is to promote a climate of academic honesty for all individuals at the University.

**Please note:** The goal of the University is to provide the qualified student with disabilities the education necessary to function as a self-sufficient individual. The Office of Human Diversity provides many services for students with disabilities and will work with faculty and students to coordinate reasonable accommodations. If you are a student with a documented learning disability that might affect your performance in this class, please inform the professor privately during the first week and schedule an appointment with the Office of Human Diversity, if it has not already been done (215 Stratton, 610-683-4108).

**A final important consideration:** almost all of these films contain violence, nudity and/or sexually explicit scenes. If you find viewing such material objectionable on any level, this may not the course for you. Given that this is a university course, we will be analyzing these films from an intellectual and artistic standpoint.