Course Information and Requirements

Course Title: Contemporary Spanish Culture and Society (SPAN1010)
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None (no knowledge of Spanish is required)
Instructor: Gustavo Nanclares, Ph.D.

E-mail: gustavo.nanclares@uconn.edu
Office Location: Arjona 404
Office Hours: I usually reply to emails within a 24-hour period

Required Textbook and Supplemental Material:

Mandatory Readings: HuskyCT course lectures. See below for a complete listing of readings under Course Outline.


With the exception of two older short films that are available in open websites (An Andalusian Dog and Las Hurdes: Land Without Bread), the rest of the films are protected by copyrights and are for the most part hard to come by, especially with English subtitles. For this reason, we have had a streaming platform created by EGEDA under the name of VEOUCONN. In order to use this platform, all students MUST buy an access code, the price of which is $30. With this access code you will be able to watch ten films with English subtitles. You will have five screenings (viewings) for each of the ten titles. Please buy your access code as soon as possible, since you will have to begin watching films right during the first week of classes (see the next section for ways to buy the access code). I understand that some students might have ways to get a hold of a few and even all of the films, perhaps even with English subtitles, but because all the students have to be provided with legal online access to the films, we have had to create this platform. The only way to offer the access codes at a reasonable price for everybody is by having ALL the students by the code. Therefore, it is mandatory for each and every student to buy an access code for the VEOUCONN platform (see below).

How to acquire a VEOUCONN access code:

The only way to buy a VEOUCONN access code is through the UConn Co-Op. If you are around Storrs, you can go directly to the UConn Co-Op and fill out a request form and pay for the code ($30), which will be emailed to you the following morning. The other way to buy the access code is through the UConn Co-Op’s “Textbooks on the Go” website: [http://webstore.uconncoop.com/coursesearch.aspx](http://webstore.uconncoop.com/coursesearch.aspx).

All you have to do is search for this course and buy the access
code online. Once you do this, you will receive your code in an email the following morning. The codes are non-refundable. Once you have received the code through email, you cannot return it, not even if you drop the course.

How to use the VEOUCONN platform:

The VEOUCONN platform is very easy to use. Just go to the website [http://www.veouconn.com/](http://www.veouconn.com/) and click on the ‘access’ button. A small window will pop open. Enter your personal access code and check the personal use authorization box. Then click ‘accept’ and you are all set to enjoy the films. In each module, you will have to search for the film or films assigned in that module. You have to click on that specific film, and then click the ‘viewing’ symbol. A window will pop asking you for the level of image quality that you prefer. It is recommended that you choose the ‘dynamic streaming,’ which will provide you with higher or lower quality depending on your internet speed at any given time during the streaming of the film. You can watch the film on the small window embedded in the webpage, or click the symbol for full screen watching. It is a good idea to pause the streaming and allow some time for the buffering to load. If for whatever reason the streaming stops or you are suddenly kicked out of the platform, go back to the film right away, so that you don’t lose one of your viewings. The system is designed so that if you restart the film within one hour from the moment you stopped or were kicked out, the system won’t use a second viewing.

Technical Support for the Films:

If you encounter any problems that you can’t fix yourself, contact the instructor for help.

The developer of this course is Dr. Gustavo Nanclares, Professor of Culture & Languages at the University of Connecticut.

All images in this course are in the public domain or citations are provided for Fair Use. Films are used with the permission of the Spanish Film Producer's Association.

Course Description

This course is a survey of Spanish Culture and Society of the 20th Century through the means of a survey of Spanish Film since its inception to the present day. In this course you will familiarize yourself both with the filmic production of Spain and with the most important social, political, and cultural aspects in its contemporary history, from the II Republic to the present day.

Course Goals and Objectives

At the end of the course, you’ll be able to:

- Identify some of the main historical, social, political, and cultural aspects in modern Spain, from the 1920s to the present.
- Analyze and interpret film critically as a social, political, ideological, and cultural text by integrating aspects of form and content in a historically informed, coherent narrative.
- Assess and articulate the critical interconnection between Spanish film and both the historical and social realities they portray and the historical and social contexts in which they were produced.

Try Out the FYE Ask Ali Study Strategies
Click **Ask Ali Videos** to listen to Ali, a very successful student at UConn, share study strategies that have worked well for her. To view the videos you will be asked to enter your UConn Net ID (the same username and password you used to log into this course).

**UConn Connects and the First Year Programs** offer an array of courses, a network for personal support, interactive online resources, and unique living/learning experiences to help students at the University of Connecticut achieve success from the start.

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**Course Organization, Grading, Exams, and Activities**

**Working plan for the course**

Refer to your Course Calendar ([click here](#)) and on the Home page of your course) for all due dates and exam dates.

**Grading Rubrics** for Discussions and for Essays can be found in the Course Grading Rubrics folder on the Home page of your course.

One of the great advantages of the online environment is that it allows for self-paced learning, that is, each student's ability to work on the materials when it is more convenient for him or her. You can organize yourself the way it is more convenient for you in order to complete the work in each module within the general deadlines of the modules provided in the calendar of modules. Be aware that you must submit your first posting of the discussion board of each module within the second day of the module. All the modules of the course (with the exception of the first introductory module) are designed in the same way. This is what you are expected to do in each module:

1. **Read the lectures.** In each module you are expected to begin by reading attentively the lectures and any other additional materials included in the lecture portion of the module. You should take some notes and retain the most important information provided in the lectures.

2. **Take the lecture quiz.** After you have read attentively and taken notes of the lectures, you should take the lecture quiz of that module. The lecture quiz consists of ten multiple choice questions. You have 10 minutes to take the quiz.

3. **Watch the introductory video for the film.** After you have taken the lecture quiz, watch the brief introductory video for the film assigned in that module. The introductory videos are around 2-3 minutes long. These videos will provide you with some basic background information about the film and will point you toward some of the aspects that we will be focusing on during our analysis, discussion, and interpretation of the film in the context of the information provided in the lectures.

4. **Watch the film.** After watching the film introductory video, go to [http://www.veouconn.com/](http://www.veouconn.com/) and watch the film assigned in that module. You can watch the film up to three times. It is a good idea to take some notes of the film, for which you might want to watch the film twice.

5. **Take the film quiz.** After watching the film attentively, take the film quiz. The film quiz consists of ten multiple choice questions. You have 15 minutes to take the quiz.

6. **Submit your journal entry.** You will have to submit a journal entry after each film. Journals can be found in the Discussion area of the course. The journal entry should consist of your initial reaction to the film. It is only 200 words in length, and you can focus on whatever aspect of the film. You should also try to connect the aspect of the film that you chose to the context discussed in the lectures.

7. **Participate in the discussion board.** There is an online discussion board for each module. The discussion board is the equivalent in the online learning environment of a class discussion in the traditional face-to-face learning environment. This is the most important learning activity in each module, and therefore this activity will have the greatest weight in your final grade. **It is also important to note that discussion boards are an integral part of the course content, and therefore you are expected to include materials from the discussions in your essays and exams.** You will be graded based on the quantity and quality of your participation in the discussion boards. In your entries you are expected to provide thoughtful and meaningful analysis of different aspects of the film, and to engage with other students’ and the instructor’s ideas and analysis. Every student must submit at least two solid entries per discussion board: an initial entry focusing on your own ideas and analysis of the film that is to be posted within the second day of the module (see calendar of modules), and a second entry in which you should engage with other students’ ideas (to be posted before the end of the module). Failing to post one of the minimum two entries (or posting one very poor entry just to comply with the requirement) will automatically reduce your grade for the discussion by 30%, and therefore your highest possible grade would be 70 points (C-). Any additional entries are welcome, but not...
mandatory, and can help to increase your grade.

8. Write an essay. In Modules 2, 4, 6, 8 10, and 11 you are expected to write an essay about a general topic proposed by the instructor. On occasion, you might be able to choose between several topics. The length of the essays should be around 450 words. See the course calendar on the Home page for submission deadlines.

Grade Breakdown:

10% Quizzes. You will take two quizzes per module: one after you read the lectures of the module, and the other after watching attentively the film assigned for each module. The quizzes consist of 10 multiple-choice questions. You have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes can only be taken once. Quizzes can only be taken during the beginning and end periods of a given module (see calendar of modules).

10% Journal Entries. You will have to submit a journal entry after each film. The journal entry should consist of your initial reaction to the film. It is only 200 words in length, and you can focus on whatever aspect of the film. You should also try to connect the aspect of the film that you chose to the context discussed in the lectures. The journals will be private between you and the instructor.

30% Discussion Boards. There is an online discussion board for each module. Every student must submit at least two solid entries per discussion board: an initial entry focusing on your own ideas and analysis of the film that is to be posted within the second day of the module (see calendar of modules), and a second entry in which you should engage with other students’ ideas that must be posted before the end of the module. Failing to post one of these two minimum entries (or posting one very poor entry just to comply with the requirement) will automatically reduce your grade for the module by 30%, and therefore your highest possible grade for that module’s discussion board would be 70 points (C-). Any additional entries are welcome, but not mandatory, and can help to increase your grade.

20% Essays. Every two modules (after every even-numbered module) you are expected to write an essay about a general topic proposed by the instructor. On occasion, you might be able to choose between two or more topics. The length of the essays should be between 400 and 500 words.

15% Midterm. The midterm will take place on Friday, June 15. The midterm will be divided in two parts. The first part will include short-answer questions of any kind (multiple choice, True or False, short definitions, etc.), while in the second part students will have to write a short essay of about 400 words. The midterm will include the materials covered until the midterm.

15% Final Exam. The final exam will take place on Friday, July 6. The final exam has the same structure as the midterm. It will cover the materials learnt between the midterm and the final.

Your course letter grade is determined according to the following. Note that an adjustment, or "curving", may be applied to your final grade to arrive at the letter grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92% and above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88% - 91%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>84% - 87%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>80% - 83%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>76% - 79%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>72% - 75%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>68% - 71%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>64% - 67%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>60% - 63%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>56% - 59%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>52% - 55%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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Academic Honesty and Student Code

All exercises, quizzes, and examinations are open-book and open-notes. However, except for the exercises, you cannot communicate with any other person or persons in any fashion whatsoever while in the process of taking the quizzes or examinations. I expect everyone to follow this code of conduct. In the unfortunate event where someone is found in violation of this policy, it will be handled according to the Student Code of the University (see below), which may be found on the website of the Division of Student Affairs. Pay special attention to Appendix A: Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research. If you have any questions, please check with me.

Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated in this class. Students should refer to the Student Code (see section on Academic Integrity - http://www.dos.uconn.edu/student_code.html) for specific guidelines.

Accessibility Issues

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (486-2020) as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Course Outline

Refer to your Course Calendar (click here) and on the Home page of your course) for all due dates and exam dates.

Module 1: Introduction: The origins of film and basic tools of film analysis

- This is a practice module for students to familiarize themselves with films in the online environment.

Module 2: Spanish avant-garde film

- Film: An Andalusian Dog by Luis Bunuel http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xH2PV_S4QI

Module 3: The II Republic (1931-1936) and social film

- Film: Land Without Bread by Luis Buñuel http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up1bTdWUv-A

Module 4: The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939): Film and Propaganda

- Films: Heroic Spain by Joaquín Roig and Spain, 1936 by Jean Paul Le Chanois

Module 5: The Early Francoist Dictatorship and the US-Spanish Treaty (1939-1953)

- Film: Bienvenido, Mr. Marshall by Luis García Berlanga.
Module 6: Spanish society under Francoism and new social film

- **Film:** *Death of a Cyclist* by Juan Antonio Bardem.


Module 7: The Ageing of Francoism and the end of the regime

- **Film:** *La caza* by Carlos Saura.

- **Reading:** Faulkner, Sally. “Ageing and Coming of Age in Carlos Saura’s *La Caza (The Hunt, 1965)*” *Modern Language Notes* 120.2 (2005): 457-84.

Module 8: Political Violence and Terrorism in Spain

- **Film:** *Wolf* by Miguel Courtois

Module 9: Unemployment in Spain

- **Film:** *Mondays in the Sun* by Fernado León de Aranoa


Module 10: Immigration in Spain

- **Film:** *Las cartas de Alou* by Montxo Armendáriz.


Module 11: Women’s Rights and Gender

- **Film:** *Take my Eyes* by Iciar Bollaín


Module 12: Coming to Terms: The Historical Memory Movement

- **Film:** *Soldados de Salamina* by David Trueba.

- **Reading:** Hughes, Arthur. “Between History and Memory: Creating a New Subjectivity in David Trueba’s Film *Soldados de Salamina.*” *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 84.3 (2007): 369-86.

Final Exam - Refer to your Course Calendar for dates

Required Software
Please run the HuskyCT to be sure your browser is HuskyCT compatible (found at top of your Course list page) and to ensure that you have downloaded the following required plug-ins:

**Acrobat Reader**  
**Quicktime Player**

If you encounter technical problems, please contact the UConn Learning Resource Center (LRC), 860-486-1187.

**Next, meet your instructor.**