

HISTORY OF SPANISH CINEMA (only the first semester)

1. Introduction

The cinema constitutes the most popular artistic expression of the XX century. Its expressive strength and narrative capacity have converted it into the most important means of moving the sensitivity of the modern spectator. In the case of Spanish cinema, film production provides us with a splendid opportunity to fully understand the reality of our country in our century, from two of the most interesting view points, as historical documentary and also as aesthetic expression. In this way, objective reality, critical attitude, ideological postulations and artistic creativity, etc. are elements to be discussed and studied in the realms of this course, all dealt with from a temporal evolution which begins with the origins of the complexity of Spanish cinematographic creation to the present-day.

2. Syllabus

I – The beginnings of Spanish cinema (1896-1930)

- 1 The culture of popular entertainment and its relation with the theatre.
- 2 Traditionalism and genre of customs and manners as forms of expression.
- 3 The hey-day of silent films: Benito Perojo and Florian Rey.
- 4 Artistic and cinematographic avant-garde: Luis Buñuel.

II - Talking movies, the Republic and the Civil War (1930-1939)

- 1 The arrival of talking movies.
- 2 The cinema in the Republic era.
- 3 Film production in the two parties in the War.

III - Cinema in the period of economic self-sufficiency in Franco's regime

- 1 Cinema as ideological propaganda.
- 2 The mechanisms of control.

IV - The renovation of the Spanish cinema in the dictatorship (1951-1975)

10. The international opening and the cinema.
11. The first achievements. Luis García Berlanga and Juan Antonio

Bardem.

12.The international image of a new cinema. Carlos saura.

13.The return of Luis Buñuel.

14.The definitive development of Spanish cinema in the later period of Franco's regime.

V - *Spanish cinema in the democracy (1975-1998)*

15.The new cinematographic politics and the end of censorship.

16.Historical review of the past from critical freedom.

17.International competition. Protectionism or free market.

18.Spanish cinema, art and industry.

19.The diversity of genres and international radiation.

3. Activities

The classes will be in the timetable established by the Centre. The course is of a theoretical and practical nature, and the class lectures are supplemented with the projection of and commentary on the most important films in the Spanish cinema.

For this reason it is important for the student to be familiar with the film section of the video library in the Centre of Modern Languages along with the organisation of and participation in film cycles and seminars related to this topic. A visit to film libraries or exhibitions related to Spanish cinema would also be of interest.

4. Assessment

The assessment of the course will be based on a final exam, essays set by the teacher and also to be taken into account will be the student's attitude during the classes.

5. Bibliography

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