

Instructor: Brian Siegel

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Room # B240

Class site: www.srsiegelspanish.wordpress.com

This course explores Current Events with the aid of Latin American films. It provides advanced level students the opportunity to perfect their language skills while increasing their knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. The course involves an in-depth study of carefully chosen films and other material that reflect the rich history and cultures of Spanish speaking countries. Students engage in class discussions, give oral presentations, and write essays based on analysis and interpretation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To provide students with an understanding of the historical, social, and political contexts of the events and films studied.
- To perfect students' oral, writing, and comprehension skills through discussion of films and their historical/societal contexts.
- To broaden students' knowledge of conversational Spanish through current events and cinema (formal and informal register, dialect varieties, and so on.)
- To engage in in-depth written and oral analysis of theoretical and cultural aspects, recurring genres and themes, distinctiveness, and originality of the films studied.

GRADING

The grade for each quarterly marking period will be determined as follows:

Category	Emphasized Skills	% quarterly grade
Informal Writing	To express ideas extemporaneously in writing	15%
Formal Writing	To present topics, ideas, and research related to the current themes, film, or genre being studied	25%
Informal Speaking	To express ideas extemporaneously in class discussions	15%
Formal Speaking	To present topics, ideas, and research related to the current themes, film, or genre being studied	25%

Please note: THE USE OF ONLINE TRANSLATORS OR SPELL-CHECK PROGRAMS IN ANY COURSE WORK WILL BE CONSIDERED AN HONOR OFFENSE.

A tentative list of the themes, films and directors to be studied includes, but is not limited to:

I. La inmigración

- a. *Sin nombre*: Dir. Cary Fukunaga: México

II. El narcotráfico

- a. *Maria llena eres de gracia*: Dir. Joshua Marston: Colombia

III. Las bandas criminales y la violencia.

- a. *Voces inocentes*: Dir. Luis Mandoki

IV. El deporte

- a. *The Two Escobars*: Dir. Jeff & Michael Zimbalist: EEUU

Buenos sitios para encontrar artículos, etc.

BBC MUNDO

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/>

UNIVISIÓN

<http://www.univision.com>

YAHOO!

<http://es-us.noticias.yahoo.com>

EL UNIVERSAL (MÉXICO)

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/noticias.html>

EL PAÍS (ESPAÑA Y AMÉRICA LATINA)

<http://elpais.com>