

BCEA Course Descriptions

FSSP210 A Spanish Lens: The Films of Pedro Almodóvar (English)

Location: BCEA

Credits: 3

Schedule: TBD

Instructor: Camila Loew, Ph.D.

Suggested Prerequisite: previous course in film studies

Course description

This course examines the representation of Spain and "Spanishness" through the films of contemporary Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar, from his commercial debut *Pepi, Luci, Bom y otras chicas del montón* (1980) to the most recent *Volver* (2006). The main focus of the course will be to analyze Almodóvar's complete filmography as an expression of the evolution of contemporary Spanish culture, from the transition to democracy and the *Movida madrileña* to present-day Spain.

Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies

By the end of the course, the student should have developed the following skills:

- Recognize aspects of contemporary Spanish society and culture that are present in Almodóvar's films;
- Examine the complexity of the notion of artistic artifice that Almodóvar explores in his works;
- Develop critical thinking about the medium of film as an expression of culture;
- Compare and contrast mainstream Hollywood film to Spanish film;
- Analyze films in ways that incorporate the above-mentioned concepts.

Required Readings

-The course reader will consist of selections from the following publications:

-Allinson, Mark. *A Spanish Labyrinth: The Films of Pedro Almodovar*. I.B.Tauris, 2000.

-D'Lugo, Marvin. *Pedro Almodovar (Contemporary Film Directors)*. Univ. of Illinois Press, 2006.

-Edwards, Gwynne. *Almodovar. The Labyrinths of Passion*. London: Peter Owen, 2001.

-Smith, Paul Julian. *Desire Unlimited. The Cinema of Pedro Almodovar*. Verso, 2000.

-Vernon, Kathleen (ed.). *Post-Franco, Postmodern: The Films of Pedro Almodovar*. Westport, CT.: Greenwood, 1995

-Willoquet-Maricondi, Paula (ed.). *Pedro Almodovar: Interviews*. UP of Mississippi, 2004.