Course Syllabus - SPANISH POSTMODERNITY AND BEYOND

Language of Instruction: English
Professor: Eloy Fernández Porta, Ph.D.
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Course Contact Hours: 45
Recommended Credit: 6 ECTS credits
Course Prerequisites: None
Language Requirements: None
Time modules: Monday to Thursday: 3 pm to 5.15 pm

Course Description:
This course studies current artistic practices in Spain, mainly performance, video creation, creative actions, media and net art, music, and photography and their interrelation with other aesthetic practices. The course combines a theoretical approach and the direct contact through visits to museums, galleries, theaters and others.

Keywords: Spain, artistic practices, media art, net art, performance.

Learning Objectives:
At the end of the course students will be able to identify and discuss some of the masterworks and most important currents of change-of-the-century culture in Spain. They will also be capable to understand and relate to key notions regarding postmodernity and media culture. They will develop a contemporary artistic sensibility, and they will acquire several notions and ideas that will be useful for them in order to understand and analyze globalized pop culture. Significant analogies between peninsular artistic production and North American art will be frequent.

Course Workload
Students will be required to read short, informative articles (provided in the Courspack) on a daily basis. The articles in question will serve as a basis for class discussion and they will offer the conceptual framework for every session of the course. There will also be two tests (Midterm and Final); each exam will cover 50% of the course. Two Zap Papers on the field trips will be required. Students will also be asked to prepare a presentation on a Spanish artist of their choice. Their work will be presented to the class in a 10-minute, powerpoint-style.

Methods of Instruction:
Every class will begin with a group of two students giving a 7-minutes summary of required reading. Thursday’s sessions will consist on a guided field trip to a local art center, gallery or museum. Proper indications will be given in advance. Part of the session will be lecture-based, but participation and debate is required. When going on a field trip students will be asked to comment and discuss the artworks on display.

Method of Assessment
Class participation: 10%
Zap Paper 1: 10%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Oral Presentation: 15%
Zap Paper: 10%
Final Exam: 30%
Absence Policy
Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. The impact of absences on the final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>No penalization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10 point scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
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The UPF Summer School attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences. Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency, etc.) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the UPF Summer School.

Classroom Norms:
There will be a ten-minute break during the class. Students must come to class fully prepared.

Laptops and similar devices can be used for academic purposes only. Browsing the web or checking e-mail in class will inevitably result in loss of points of Class Participation Grade.

Course Contents:

OPENING WEEK
MON: Welcome to Disney-Dalí. Land. Enjoying cultural shock, or, how the Spanish tradition and American pop make an unlikely yet lovely couple. The birth of a transnational dynamics in the 60s. Self-guided field trip: Public Art in el Born.
TUE: Photography in Disney-Dalí Land: From family albums to the post-photographic paradigm. Reimagining the community. Read: Joan Fontcuberta, “From Here On”.
WED: Portrait and identity in the age of digital photography. How every selfie is a corporative portrait. Read: The Telegraph, Cristina de Middel: The Afronauts + MACBA website.
THU: Field Trip 1: A visit to the permanent collection. Read: Alberto Martín, Figures in the Fire.

WEEK 2
TUE 11: Videoart and social protest.
WED: Midterm Exam. Read: Javier Gimeno Martínez, Narratives of Fashion and Nation.

WEEK 4
TUE: Spanish feminist art. Gender codes as prison and gender codes as game. Read: Hans Haacke, Obra Social.
THU: Read: Landscapes of Cinema: Almería.

FINAL WEEK
MON: Field Trip 4: Centre de Cultura Contemporània (CCCB). Black Light: Secret Traditions in the Arts Since the 1950s.
TUE: Presentations. Watch: Álex de la Iglesia, 800 bullets.
WED: Learning from Tabernas’. Almería’s paella western, global regionalism and the postmodern reinvention of virility. Read: José Miguel G. Cortés, Fallen Idols? Masculinity and Representation.
THU: Final Exam.

Required Readings: Book chapters, articles and required viewing material (interviews with artists, videos and movies) can be found at Aula Global.

Recommended bibliography:
- CONGOST, Carles, Say I’m Your Number One, León: MUSAC, 2007.
- MILLÁN, Fernando y Jesús García Sánchez (Eds.), La escritura en libertad, Madrid: Alianza, 1975. [Visual poetry anthology]

Last revised, February 2018