Course Syllabus: SPANISH POSTMODERNITY AND BEYOND

Language of Instruction: English
Professor: Eloy Fernández Porta, Ph.D.
Professor’s Contact: eloif.fernandez-porta@upf.edu
Course Contact Hours: 45
Recommended Credit: 5 ECTS credits
Course Prerequisites: None
Language Requirements: None

Course Description:
This course provides a dynamic, multi-disciplinary introduction to Postmodern Culture in Spain. It covers nearly forty years of local artistic production, from the raise of democracy in the mid seventies to the establishment of the globalized paradigm during the first decade of the XXI Century. We will discuss recent classics as well as emerging artists, and we will cover a wide range of artistic practices, from photography to afterpop music, including installation art, performance art and comic art. Although the course offers several relevant clues to understand the historical context and particular conditions in Spain, it is also intended as a more general insight into contemporary

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 analize globalized pop culture. Significant analogies between peninsula 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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<tr>
<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.

Course Contents:
MON 26: 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: Three public artworks at El Born.
TUE 27: Public Art: Reimagining the community in Spain and the US. The sculptures of Jaume Plensa. Read: Interviews with Daniel Canogar.

MON 3: Zap Paper 1 Due. Photography in Disney-Dalí Land: From family albums to the post-photographic paradigm. Reimagining the community. Read: Joan Fontcuberta, “From Here On”.
WED 5: The photocollage genre, from Dada to Meme. Vernacular images, photobooks and the question of the archive.
TUE 11: Cyborgs and cybercultures. A story of the world according to machines. New media and mutant identities in the works of Aviador Dro, Marcel.lí Antúnez and Marina Núñez.
THU 13: Field Trip 3: Museu del Disseny. Watch: Interview With Alicia Framis @ Oral Memories.
TUE 18 : Spanish feminist art. Gender codes as prison and gender codes as game. Read: Hans Haacke, Obra Social.
MON 24: Presentations. Watch: Álex de la Iglesia, 800 bullets.
WED 26: Whatever happened to the macho? Milksop and manful: The fall of classic masculinities and the emergence of new gender codes.
THU 27: 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: March 2017.