

FI939-30 Pedro Almodovar (MA)

26/27

Department

SCAPVC – Film and Television Studies

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Jose Arroyo

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This course aims to introduce students to an incredibly rich oeuvre, periodise it through various paradigms (from the political to the authorial), chart its development, and broach the following questions: What does the work owe to the culture it arises from? How is it queer? What does it mean, to whom and in what contexts? What does Almodóvar's owe to Hollywood cinema in general and melodramatic and noir variants in particular. What is the inter-relationship of representations of gender, sexuality and nation in his work? How does the oeuvre fit into a history of Spanish Cinema, Queer Cinema but also broader contexts and histories of art, design, fashion, advertising cultures? The focus will be largely on the work of one director but seen through various contexts (social and historical; national variants of films studies concepts such as genre, stars, style, authorship) and concepts (camp, postmodernism, metamodernism) so as to also explore and interrogate the meaning and significance of the oeuvre.

Module aims

- to enrich our understanding of the work of Pedro Almodóvar.
- to understand the different contexts in which it circulated (Spanish Cinema, European Art Cinema, International Queer Circuits) and their effects on production and reception).
- to sharpen traditional film studies concepts in relation to this work (genre, stars, style, authorship).
- to learn and apply concepts made pertinent by the work itself (camp, postmodernism,

metamodernism) in order to better enable an analysis of the work's aesthetics and cultural significance.

-to hone skills in textual analysis within and across a work to as grounds for a sophisticated level of analysis.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week One –An aesthetic context for Almodóvar: *Pepi Luci Bom* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1980).

Week Two: Transitions, *Movidas*, Queerness: What Have I Done to Deserve This/ *Que hecho yo para merecer esto?* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1984).

Week Three – Economic and Infrastructural contexts for a work: *Gay Cinema as International Breakthrough - The Law of Desire/ La ley del deseo* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1986).

Week Four – Postmodernism with Feeling: *Cinema - Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown/ Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios* (Pedro Almodóvar, 1988).

Week Five – 100% Animal: Masculinity and Spanish Cinema - *Live Flesh/Carne trémula/* ,

Week Six – Reading and Viewing week.

Week Seven – Melodrama and advertising cultures - *All About My Mother/ Todo sobre mi madre*, Pedro Almodóvar, 1999.

Week Eight – Filming the Unfilmable in a different vein – *Talk to Her/ Hable con ella*, (Pedro Almodovar, 2002).

Week Nine - Film History as mise-en-scène - *Bad Education/ La mala educación*, (Pedro Almodovar, 2006).

Week Ten – Metacinema/ Metamodernims *Broken Embraces/ Los abrazos rotos* (Pedro Almodóvar, 2009)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- -Demonstrate a sophisticated knowledge of the work of Pedro Almodovar
- Have a sophisticated understanding and be able to dextrously deploy concepts such as queer, camp, postmodernism and metamodernism in relation to the work of Almodóvar at a high level
- Be able to discuss Almodovar's work as part of different histories of cinema (national and international cinemas; social and political; mainstream and queer; aesthetics and style) variously inter-relating; and also as metacinema, as works commenting on cinema itself
- Further refine and improve skills of textual analysis to a graduate level
- Further improve skills in the construction of argument , expression, and presentation to a graduate level

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Students will have to write an essay that will involve research into concepts, contexts and texts.

Interdisciplinary

All cinema has an interdisciplinary dimension. Here fashion, food, Spanish history, Art History, philosophy and much else will be brought in to enhance our understanding of this particular work.

International

The work itself is international in scope, has an international reach and will be of interest to international students.

Subject specific skills

- textual analysis
- increased understanding of the work of Pedro Almodóvar, Spanish Cinema, Queer Cinema
- film history
- film theory

Transferable skills

- expression
 - argumentation
 - analysis
 - methods of historicising
 - relation between text and concepts
 - relation between texts and contexts
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (4%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (4%)
Work-based learning	(0%)
Other activity	20 hours 15 minutes (10%)
Private study	161 hours 45 minutes (80%)
Total	200 hours

Private study description

Students will have reading to read before seminars that on average will require 10 hours a week (100 hours total), they will be expected to do further viewing of 18 films on their own during the term, (40.5 hours total), and re-view for study purposes relating to textual analysis 3 key films, three times each (20.2.5 hours).

Other activity description

screenings of films on average 2h15

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
6000 word Research Essay	100%	100 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will be asked to answer a question from a list of questions offered. They will be advised to research into concepts, contexts and texts to best answer it; and to answer in a structured way, in a scholarly form, with convincing provision of evidence and with clarity of expression so as to make their argument a convincing one.			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

In line with the department's usual practice, extensive written feedback is provided on essays. Students may also seek out course tutors for further feedback on essays or examinations.

Availability

Courses

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TFIA-W5P3 Postgraduate Taught Film and Television Studies (For Research)