

The Magic & The Duende: Presence and Influence of the Flamenco In Spanish Cultures.

Instructor	
Email	
Schedule	Monday- Friday (2,30 h)
Class	Virtual Classroom
Office hours	By appointment
Credits	3
Language of instruction	Spanish

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Flamenco is a magical world shaped over the centuries; it is a melting pot of cultures from all around the world. The Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca described the “duende” as the magical moment of inspiration that opens the doors of colorful perceptions “driving us to the sublime.” These emotions are the starting point for our passion for the culture of flamenco, theatre, and dance.

This course introduces students to the culture of Spain through the magical world of flamenco and its multiple cultural representations in the arts, theater, films, and dance. Students will explore the exotic world of flamenco through an interdisciplinary perspective and will learn how to critically integrate different cultural sources including historical text, works of literature and art, music and dance, films or fashion in order to understand the different influences of flamenco in the Spanish culture over time. The class also has a practical component and students will learn to dance the basics movements of the flamenco dance. It is through the dance itself that they will understand the flow of emotions and constant communication between the flamenco performers integrating dance, acting, voice, rhythm, and movement.

In addition to the dance sessions, the course will include different cultural activities that will illustrate how flamenco is (and has always been present) in Spanish cultural life. They will enjoy watching virtual performances, meet professional musicians and dancers. Students will work on a virtual collaborative project and will prepare a performance that will be presented at the end of the course.

2. GOALS & COMPETENCES

Upon completion of the course students will be able to identify

Competence 1.	Identify major historical periods and key topics in the history of Flamenco.
Competence 2.	Develop foundational literacy and vocabulary to understand the flamenco culture and dance.
Competence 3.	To learn the “Palos Flamencos” and rhythms through exercises, dance, percussion, and basic choreographies.
Competence 4.	Draw connections between different cultural sources including historical texts, works of art, music, films or fashion to better understand the history of Spain.
Competence 5.	Engage in the creation and design of an art performance.

3. PROGRAM

Day 1	Introduction to the course: What do you know about Spain? What do you know about Flamenco culture? Early flamenco presence: in search of the early sentiments and identities. The “Jondo” and Andalussian culture. Creative Project: Introduction to play production.
Day 2	Early Spanish Cultures and the building of the flamenco identity, Al-Andalus, Medieval and Modern Spain. Creative Project: Learning the basics of flamenco dance and how to express emotions through music and movement.
Day 3	Spanish Cultures and the flamenco influences, Spanish Golden Age. Creative Project: reading texts and learning about dance and rhythm. “Majos”, boleros, folklore and gitanos.
Day 4	Spanish Cultures and the flamenco influences. 18 th Century testimonies, international visions of Flamenco and the building of a Spanish archetype. Creative Project: Your body is an instrument: learning how to play, percussion and more.
Day 5	Spanish Cultures and the flamenco influences. 20 th Century in Spain, the Golden Age of Flamenco, Spanish Civil War and Postwar period. Creative Project: Introduction to theater: learning how to create a character in a Flamenco performance. The “Palo creado”.
Day 6	Spanish Cultures and the flamenco influences. 20 th Century appreciation of Flamenco: rediscovering Flamenco, culture, and history. Creative Project. Music and Dance: music and palos (guitar, cante and palmas)
Day 7	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences in the 20 th Century: Flamenco as a discipline (Flamencología) Creative Project: Music and Dance: music & choreography.
Day 8	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences: Flamenco presence in contemporary culture. Creative Project. Literary texts & Dance: Juegos del saber.

Day 9	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences: Flamenco performances in contemporary culture. Creative Project. Flamenco on Stage: Props and Costumes. (I) Performance rehearsal.
Day 10	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences: Flamenco influences in contemporary Fashion. Creative Project. Flamenco on Stage: Props and Costumes. (II) Performance rehearsal.
Day 11	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences: Flamenco international presence. Creative Project. Flamenco on Stage: Props and Costumes. (II) / Working your emotions. Performance rehearsal.
Day 12	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences: Flamenco on Stage today. Creative Project. Preparing the Stage & Technical direction. Performance rehearsal.
Day 13	Spanish Cultures and flamenco influences: Flamenco on Stage today. Creative Project. Preparing the Stage & Technical direction. Performance rehearsal.
Day 14	Life performance of the creative project.
Day 15	Conclusion and last remarks

4. METHODOLOGY

This class is delivered in a virtual format through two different platforms: class meeting with the professor will take place twice a week in synchronous session through Zoom; in addition to that, students will and have access to all of the materials, readings, videos, quizzes and test through a Google Class. The class learning is supported with lectures, discussions, readings, in-class exercises in pairs or groups, cultural visits, and explorations. Students will also enjoy a full program of cultural virtual visits, have virtual meetings with experts of different fields and participate in different cultural workshops.

Students will work on a virtual collaborative project and will prepare a performance that will be presented at the end of the course.

5. CREATIVE COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Students will be responsible for the development of a creative collaborative performance. They will put to work their creativity and imagination in the design of performance, they will learn to integrate different elements both, technical and artistic, such as music, dance, costumes or lights in order to create their show. Students will be responsible to select an event, character, work of art or any topic of their interest and turn it into an attractive and engaging digital project.

Some of the questions that should be addressed in the making of the project include:

- What is the cultural or historical event or problem that I want to focus on?
- How will we do it?

- Who is it targeted to?
- What is the essence of that I want to create?
- How does the project align with the learning outcomes of the course?
- What are the benefits for the student (and for the audience)?
- What are the resources that you need to use for your project?
- What is the timeframe, technology, and planning that you will do for your project?
- What will be your project's budget?
- Where will it be performed? What audience will it reach?
- What are the risks and other issues that you should take into consideration?
- Presentation of the performance
- The making of the show.

Upon conclusion each group will have to turn in two different assignments. One of them will be the group presentation, and the other one, in which each of the members of the groups should submit a paper detailing their unique contribution towards the design and creation of the project, its development and the lessons they have learned along the way.

6. EVALUATION

This course integrates different components for the final evaluation.

1. Classroom preparation & participation	10%
2. 4 Quizzes (10 pts each)	40%
3. Collaborative Project	20%
4. Project Presentation	15%
5. Personal Essay	15%

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

There is no required textbook for this course. Every session will have assigned selective readings, videos or presentations that will be made available to students through Google Class.

We will be referring to these critics and authors.

José Manuel Gamboa
José Blas Vega
Manuel Ríos Ruiz
Balbino Gutiérrez
Miguel Mora
Faustino Núñez
Alfredo Grimaldos
Antonio Manuel Rodríguez
Flamencopolis