

**Bedford High School**  
**Foreign Language Department**  
**Bárbara Barnett, Program Director**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS 2011-2012**

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**Course:** **4354 Spanish Cinema** (level 4)      **4355 Spanish Cinema** (level 5)      **Credit: 5**

Conducted in an immersion style, students will learn about the history and culture of Spanish-speaking countries through the medium of film. Students will watch films of the Spanish-speaking world set in North America, Latin America, and Spain. Movies viewed in class will provide a context in history and culture as well as language. In preparation for watching the films, students will study the historical/cultural information that provides the backdrop of the settings of the films. Lessons will require higher-level thinking skills such as expressing opinion, analyzing, predicting, and comparing and contrasting in the target language. Students will continue to master more sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical concepts and will be assigned a substantial amount of written work. Students will improve oral, aural, written, and reading proficiencies.

Prerequisites:

**For Level 4:**

- Completion of Spanish IV (level 3), Spanish IV-Advanced, or Spanish Stories and Cultures (level 4 or level 5) with a final grade of 70 or better; and/or
- Teacher recommendation.

**For Level 5:**

- Completion of Spanish IV-Advanced or Spanish Stories and Cultures (level 4) with a final grade of 85 or better; or
- Completion of Spanish Stories and Cultures (level 5) with a final grade of 70 or better; or
- Successful completion of A.P. Spanish; and/or
- Teacher recommendation.

**I. Learning Objectives** (A statement of learning objectives is a statement of changes to take place in the students):

By the completion of this course, the successful students will have learned to:

- watch, understand, and interpret selections of Spanish-language Cinema.
- discuss and write about plot, characters, culture history and themes found in Spanish-language cinema.
- express complex opinions, ideas and personal feelings in oral and written form.
- write a structured 5-paragraph essay in Spanish supporting a thesis.
- analyze scenes based on cinematographic technique and cultural context.
- interpret authentic conversational Spanish.

**II. Learning Experiences** (A learning experience is the interaction between the learner and the external conditions in the environment to which he/she can react):

In this course, students will:

- discuss personal opinions about themes in cinema.
- share stories and experiences.
- analyze film for cultural, historical and cinematographic themes.
- present and discuss analysis of various topics.
- write compositions based on themes discussed in class.
- debate issues pertinent to topics studied.
- listen and respond to authentic Spanish conversation as seen in film.

**III. Course Outline** (A brief outline of major topics and units which are central to this course, the sequence of topics and units may be altered by the teacher based on the needs of students):

- A. Cinematic Principals and Techniques
- B. Film Adaptation
- C. Hispanic/Latino Filmmakers
- D. Hispanic/Latino Influence in the United States
- E. Morality
- F. Civil Wars & Social Conflicts
- G. Interpersonal Relationships

**IV. Course Materials:** The following list represents the major resources used in Spanish Cinema.

Films:

- *Casa de mi padre*, USA, 2012
- *Che el argentino*, Spain/USA, 2009
- *Criminal*, USA, 2004
- *Diarios de motocicleta*, Argentina, 2004
- *El crimen del Padre Amaro*, Mexico/Spain/Argentina, 2002
- *El hijo de la novia*, Argentina, 2001
- *El laberinto del fauno*, Spain/Mexico, 2006
- *La lengua de las mariposas*, Spain, 1999
- *La misma luna*, USA/Mexico, 2008
- *Machuca*, Chile, 2004
- *Maria llena eres de gracia*, Colombia, 2004
- *Nueve reinas*, Argentina, 2000
- *Todo sobre mi madre*, Spain, 1999
- *Viva Cuba*, Cuba, 2005
- *Volver*, Spain, 2006

**Note:** More movies may be added to the list based on the needs of students.

Teachers also use additional supplementary texts: articles, materials and curriculum documents which they have gathered or prepared themselves and which they believe enrich and extend student learning.

**Foreign Language Departmental Essential Questions**

- Why is it important to be able to communicate in another language?
- Why is it important to understand and respect other cultures?
- Why is it important to understand the workings of a language?

