

Hispanic Studies

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Screening Cuba: National and Transnational Perspectives
Code	SPU44091
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	3 years university-level Spanish or B2/C1 level of Spanish

Module Content

This module will cover Cuban cinema since the creation of the film institute (ICAIC) in 1959. We will consider films by Cuban directors, and representations of Cuba by foreign filmmakers and Cuban filmmakers in exile, thus focusing on screenings of Cuba and Cuban topics from multiple viewpoints. Specific aesthetics will be studied to contextualize applications of Cuban theoretical texts in relation to imperfect cinema, and the viewer's dialectics. We will explore the effects of non-chronological sequencing and distancing in film; black humour, subjectivity, and alterity; allegorical interpretations leading to censorship; the self and the State, with particular attention to gender and sexuality in relation to law; film autobiography as a genre; auteur cinema; revolution and the creation of the 'new man'; revolutionary national identity and marginality; and diaspora, exile and inner exile, among other topics. Overall, this module will study film as a political medium across modern and postmodern contexts, using theoretical texts and key films to illustrate pivotal turning points in socio-historical contexts specific to Cuba and the impact of its 1959 revolution on all aspects of public and private life.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module students will be able to:

- show a comprehensive understanding of film practices in Cuba.

- understand key political debates through cinematic representations in Cuba.

- evaluate the role of ICAIC (Instituto Cubano de Arte e Industria Cinematográficos) in placing film as a representational form of social practices and popular culture within the post-1959 revolutionary process.

Assessment

2,000-2,500-word final essay, 70%

Formative and ipsative assessment and feedback in tutorials.