



Cinematic Auteurs: Cuarón, del Toro, & Inárritu (Or... the “Three Amigos”)

FILM 3390 / CHIC 4350
CRN: 17354 / 10772

T/Th 12:00 – 1:20 pm

Educ. #309

Fall Semester – 2022

Instructor: Roberto Avant-Mier, Ph.D.
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Phone: (915) 747.6588
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 8:30 am – 10:30 am (or by appointment), or Virtual (by appt)
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Required Texts:

REQUIRED Textbook: *The Three Amigos: Transnational Filmmaking of del Toro, Iñárritu, and Cuarón* [By author Deborah Shaw, Year: 2013, Publisher: Manchester University Press]

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to increase understanding of a specific film director (in this case, the three Mexican directors: Alfonso Cuarón, Guillermo del Toro, & Alejandro González-Iñárritu)... with the goals of enlightenment about cinema, filmmaking, and critical thinking about media. This course will introduce you to background information about the director(s), and will help you apply this knowledge in understanding cinema as meaning-making cultural practice. From a communication perspective, it will improve your understanding of communication from both transmission and ritual/symbolic perspectives. From a cultural perspective, the course will focus on social, societal, cultural, structural and historical dimensions of film production as well, and therefore also emphasizes racial, ethnic, class, and gender analyses of film/media production. Finally, this class will emphasize a critical-cultural approach to media / communication overall.

Course Objectives: In this course you should,

- Become familiar with the director and his body of work, and develop a familiarity with the director's style, thematic concerns, and commitments. (In this case, the three Mexican directors)
- Develop a basic understanding of how the director's films have been received by the public and understood by academics.
- Develop a working vocabulary of terms and concepts that relate to film studies as well as film studies from a communication/media studies perspective.
- Discover the importance of the roles of history and context in film as communication.
- Become more sensitive to the complexity of discursive practices in society, and knowledgeable about film and communication.
- Recognize the potential influence of an individual's group, cultural, or ethnic/national identity on mediated productions.

5. CASS POLICY (Center for Accommodations & Support Services):

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747.5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. Or visit their office located in the UTEP Union – East, Room #106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

6. PHONES / ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Cell phones or other personal electronic communication devices are NOT permitted during class, so phones should be turned off AND put away during class. Laptops for note-taking are permitted, only with (a.) instructor permission and (b.) as long as the student sits in the front rows of the classroom. [In other words, students cannot sit in the back rows when they are using laptops.]

7. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence, and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. **Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline.** Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

8. COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT:

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

9. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SCALES:

Assignments

* Attendance & Participation	30 %
Mid-Term Exam:	20 %
Final Exam:	20 %
Quizzes (2 total / 15% each)	30 %

*** Attendance & Participation Points Earned**

0-1 absences =	90-100% for attendance grade
2-3 absences =	80-89% for attendance grade
4-5 absences =	70-79% for attendance grade
6-7 absences =	automatic "D" for final grade
8 or more =	automatic failure of course / "F" or "W"

<p>NOTE:</p> <p>2 Tardies = 1 Absence</p>

Numeric Scale – Letter Grade Achieved

90 – 100 = **A** 80 – 89 = **B** 70 – 79 = **C** 60 – 69 = **D** below 60 = **F**

11. COURSE SCHEDULE:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE — Fall 2022

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Be ready to discuss:</u>
1	T 8/23	Introductions, syllabus & course overview	(Get the books/ materials!)
	Th 8/25	Cuarón #1: <i>Sólo Con Tu Pareja</i> (1991)	<i>The Three Amigos</i> : "Introduction"
2	T 8/30	Cuarón #1: <i>Sólo Con Tu Pareja</i> (1991)	a. <i>The Three Amigos</i> , Ch. 7 b. "Sex, Lies, & Mariachis" (by R. Long)
	Th 9/ 1	del Toro #1: <i>Cronos</i> (1993)	a. "Introduction" (Tiemey/Shaw/Davies) b. "G. del Toro: At Home w/ Monsters" (Salvesen & Shedden)
3	T 9/ 6	del Toro #1: <i>Cronos</i> (1993)	a. <i>The Three Amigos</i> , Ch. 1
	Th 9/ 8	Iñárritu #1: <i>Amores Perros</i> (2000)	a. A. González-Iñárritu: "Preface" (Deleyto & del Mar Azcona)
4	T 9/13	Iñárritu #1: <i>Amores Perros</i> (2000)	a. <i>The Three Amigos</i> , Ch. 4 b. <i>Amores Perros</i> , pp. 9 - 72 (P. Smith)
	Th 9/15	<u>QUIZ #1</u>	
5	T 9/20	Cuarón #2: <i>Y Tu Mamá También</i> (2001)	A. González-Iñárritu: pp. 1-19 (Deleyto & del Mar Azcona)
	Th 9/22	Cuarón #2: <i>Y Tu Mamá También</i> (2001)	<i>The Three Amigos</i> , Ch. 8
6	T 9/27	del Toro #2: <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> (2006)	<i>The Three Amigos</i> , Ch. 3
	Th 9/29	del Toro #2: <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> (2006)	a. "Introduction" (by McDonald & Clark) b. "Desire & Disobedience..." (J. Orme)
7	T 10/ 4	Iñárritu #2: <i>Babel</i> (2006)	A. González-Iñárritu: pp. 49-65 (Deleyto & del Mar Azcona)
	Th 10/ 6	Iñárritu #2: <i>Babel</i> (2006)	<i>The Three Amigos</i> , Ch. 6
8	T 10/11	<u>MID-TERM EXAM</u>	
	Th 10/13	Cuarón #3: <i>Children of Men</i> (2006)	[Watch film]

Director Filmography(ies)

Alfonso Cuarón:

Sólo con Tu Pareja (1991) [Or, "Love in the Time of Hysteria"]
A Little Princess (1995)
Great Expectations (1998)
Y Tu Mamá También (2001) [Or, "And Your Mother Too"]
Harry Potter & The Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)
Children of Men (2006)
Gravity (2013)
Roma (2018)

Guillermo del Toro:

Cronos (1993)
Mimic (1997)
The Devil's Backbone (2001)
Blade II (2002)
HellBoy (2004)
El Laberinto del Fauno (2006) [Or, "Pan's Labyrinth"]
HellBoy II: The Golden Army (2008)
Pacific Rim (2013)
Crimson Peak (2015)
The Shape of Water (2017)
Nightmare Alley (2021)
Pinocchio (2022)

Alejandro González Iñárritu:

Amores Perros (2000) [Or, "Love Is a Bitch"]
21 Grams (2003)
Babel (2006)
Biutiful (2010)
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (2014)
The Revenant (2015)
Bardo (or False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths) (2022)
