

# SPANISH DOCUMENTARIES: A JOURNEY INTO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

ENHANCE YOUR SPANISH SKILLS THROUGH THE ART  
OF DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING.

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This course is designed to empower students at all levels to discover the transformative potential of cinema as a vehicle for expressing ideas in a foreign language while simultaneously cultivating their ability to engage profoundly with personally resonant topics. Rooted in the genre of documentary filmmaking, students embark on a journey through the intricate layers of social and political issues. Raising dynamic discussions, the curriculum prioritizes in-depth analysis of cinematic works within their cultural and historical contexts. The course offers a unique opportunity to dive into the learning process of Spanish through the rich history and culture of Spain and Latin America.

## **Who is the target audience?**

This course is designed for students aged 16 and above. All levels are welcome.

## **Duration**

Sessions will run for 55 minutes each.

## **Methodology**

This course employs a dynamic approach using short documentary films sourced from Spain and Latin America. These films serve as catalysts for exploring diverse societal issues tackled by their creators. Students engage in technical analysis, delving into the creative decisions behind each film while debating the specific challenges portrayed.

By immersing themselves in these cinematic narratives, students develop a deeper connection to their surroundings, fostering a sense of responsibility towards community improvement.

This course serves as students' inaugural exposure to documentary filmmaking, nurturing their appreciation for the transformative potential of audiovisual production in effecting societal change. It fosters empathy towards diverse social and cultural landscapes, empowering students to become proactive agents of positive transformation.

# COURSE INSTRUCTOR

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**Guillermo Logar** (born in Madrid, Spain, 1987) is a screenwriter, playwright, and director, specializing in transforming journalistic and literary works into compelling audiovisual narratives. His work spans both documentary and fiction genres, often rooted in real-life events. Educated at prestigious institutions including the Royal School of Dramatic Arts (RESAD), the Atlantic Acting School in New York, and Rose Bruford College in London, Guillermo boasts a rich academic background. He has directed five stage productions premiered in prominent cultural hubs such as New York, Madrid, and Mexico City. As a pivotal member of the founding team of Salon Indien Films, Guillermo has contributed significantly to the production of acclaimed feature films. Notable among these are "The Other Kids," recipient of the Movistar + Award for Best Spanish Documentary at Documenta Madrid 2016, "Indestructible: The Soul of Salsa," an Official Selection at the Havana Festival, Cuba 2017, and "The Price of Progress," recognized in the Official Selection of the Valladolid International Film Week 2020 – Seminci. From 2018 to 2023. Recently, Guillermo premiered the documentary "Guernica: The Last Exile," a significant contribution to the Picasso Celebration 1973–2023. This project earned distinction as the winning entry in the European Digital Treasures 2022 competition, supported by funding from the Ministry of Culture and the Creative Europe program of the European Union. More info: [www.guillermologar.com](http://www.guillermologar.com)

# CLASS STRUCTURE

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The initial session is dedicated solely to familiarizing the teacher with the student and assessing their proficiency in the Spanish language, enabling tailored content delivery. The establishment of trust between teacher and student hinges significantly on this introductory meeting. The primary aim of subsequent sessions is to alleviate the student's apprehension about communicating in a non-native language. Creating a supportive environment conducive to expression stands as the cornerstone of this initial interaction. From the second class onwards, the structure unfolds as follows:

1. Greetings and brief reflections on the previous week.
2. Analysis of the short documentary for the week.
3. Identification of key vocabulary from the short documentary.
4. Discussion of the documentary's themes and exploration of historical, social, or political contexts.
5. Oral reading of a text related to the documentary, with focus on accent correction.
6. Compilation of recommendations for the week: podcasts, articles, and informative videos.
7. Conclusion of the session with an opportunity for questions, doubts, and final reflections.

# SELECTION OF SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

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The ultimate selection of documentaries is tailored to the individual profile of the participating student. However, examples of titles that may be featured include:

Las Hurdes: Tierra sin pan (Luis Buñuel, 1932), Tríptico Elemental de España (José Val del Omar, 1953), Mama (Pablo de la Chica, 2020), Guernica: El último exiliado (Guillermo Logar, 2022), ...a Valparaíso (Joris Ivens, 1964), Una historia para los Modlin (Sergio Oksman, 2012), Yo no soy de aquí (Maite Alberdi, 2016), Los desheredados (Laura Ferrés, 2017).

Furthermore, the final compilation comprises works from diverse geographical regions, enriching our understanding of the global landscape. All screenings are presented in their original language with Spanish subtitles.

## ANY QUESTIONS?

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Please feel free to contact Guillermo at [logar.guillermo@gmail.com](mailto:logar.guillermo@gmail.com)

Normally, sessions will be conducted via Zoom, but feel free to inquire about availability for in-person classes in Madrid or Mexico City.

Rates per session start at \$40, with special monthly packages available upon request.

**Experience a free trial session!** Schedule your appointment today by emailing [logar.guillermo@gmail.com](mailto:logar.guillermo@gmail.com). Let's customize a program that works just for you.