



**MS361 FLAMENCO: HISTORY AND DANCE**  
IES Abroad Granada

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course studies flamenco as music, dance, and spectacle. Students examine the history of flamenco in the context of Mediterranean culture, and the culture and ethnicity of Andalusia. The influences of flamenco in literature, theater, classic and popular music is also studied. Students learn the basic steps of flamenco and its history, complemented by attendance to flamenco performances in Granada.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** Spanish

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**ADDITIONAL COST:** None

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

This course combines:

- a practical learning of flamenco dance,
- a theoretical approach to its history, focusing on its evolution,
- the different styles danced today,
- the basic steps of flamenco and its expressive character,
- course-related visits to local flamenco performances.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Course Participation and Knowledge of Basic Flamenco Steps - 35%
- Projects - 25%
- Final Written Paper - 20%
- Final Dance Performance - 20%

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify flamenco, its history, origin and evolution.
- Acquire contact with flamenco as a representative form of art of the Andalusian culture.
- Construct the concept of flamenco as an artistic activity, a form of communication and non-verbal language through which people express their feelings and ideas.
- Analyze the codes that determine the communication between musicians and dancers as they create a coordinated work.
- Recognize and analyze the different elements integrated in a flamenco performance.
- Work on the different flamenco movements in a practical way and implement them as part of a traditional flamenco performance so that students become aware of its structure.
- Recognize the characteristics of the different flamenco steps. Be able of clapping hands according to the steps studied during the course.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad Granada classes, including field studies. For this course, if a student misses more than three classes, one third of a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Missed exams, tests, presentations, or any other assignments can only be rescheduled in case of documented medical or family emergencies.

**CONTENT:**

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Week	Content	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>History of flamenco: its origins.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief introduction to origins of flamenco. Influences on other music.</li> <li>• Andalusia as the birthplace of flamenco and the Andalusian folklore from which it developed.</li> <li>• First written documentation and first public performances. <i>Bailes de candil</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orígenes musicales (extract from <i>Diccionario enciclopédico del flamenco</i> de M. Ríos Ruiz y José Blas Vega).</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Rehearsal of flamenco. Structure and practice of flamenco: introduction to <i>tangos</i> meter and singing.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different forms of clapping and singing the meter. Basic positions to begin a dance.</li> <li>• Coordination of feet and arms at tango rhythm.</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>History of flamenco: professionalism. <i>Los Cafés Cantantes</i>.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birth of the first academies and ballrooms as antecessors of <i>los cafés cantantes</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Los cafés cantantes</i></li> <li>• Birth of the flamenco group, antecessor of the actual <i>tablaos</i>.</li> <li>• Codes for communication between the guitar, the singer and the dancer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Café Cantante” (extract from <i>Diccionario enciclopédico del flamenco</i> de M. Ríos Ruiz y José Blas Vega).</li> <li>• Recommended reading: “La etapa de los cafés cantantes” in <i>El baile flamenco</i> de Ángel Álvarez Caballero.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Rehearsal of flamenco: explanation of the basic choreographic structure, different palos, important terminology for different flamenco elements (calling the singer, lyrics, <i>escobilla</i>, <i>falseta</i>, ending, etc.).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Videos to explain different flamenco elements.</li> <li>• Attendance to a flamenco <i>tablaó</i> performance from which students will do a reaction Project recognizing elements previously learnt in class.</li> <li>• Start of Granada’s <i>tangos</i> choreography: Study of arm-leg coordination and space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional dance structures. Written and distributed by the instructor in class.</li> </ul>

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 5	<p><b>History of flamenco: its arrival at theatres.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept of <i>bailarín-bailaor</i> and its repercussion in the development of flamenco.</li> <li>• Introduction to more elaborate flamenco steps.</li> <li>• Influences of flamenco in classic Spanish dance and vice versa.</li> <li>• Videos to study the differences between a <i>tablaó</i> performance and flamenco theatre (concept of scene, choreograph, use of lighting, plot line, links among different groups, etc.).</li> </ul> <p><b>Critical analysis of the elements seen on the videos.</b></p>	
Week 6	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: continuation of Granada's tangos choreography.</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to <i>fandangos de Huelva</i>. Zapateado technique.</b></p>	
Week 7	<p><b>History of flamenco: Differences between men and women dancing styles and their historical development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Videos to see the evolution of both styles throughout the years.</li> </ul>	
Week 8	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: flamenco technique in terms of rhythm (<i>tangos</i> and <i>fandangos</i>).</b></p> <p><b>Continuation of tangos choreography as a basic referential structure. Simple feet variations.</b></p>	
Week 9	<p><b>History of flamenco: modern day flamenco.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music and its fusion with jazz and other styles.</li> <li>• Dance and assimilation of contemporary and classic dance elements.</li> <li>• Music of Chano Domínguez, Jorge Pardo, or Paco de Lucía among others.</li> <li>• Videos of contemporary dancers' performances such as Belén Maya, Fernando Romero, Isabel Bayón or Eva la Yerbabuena among others.</li> </ul>	

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 10	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: introduction to the twelve-beat meter.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to recognize the meter and clapping.</li> <li>First “<i>pasos por alegrías</i>”.</li> </ul>	
Week 11	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: classification of <i>palos flamencos</i>.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detail study: character, meter and other differential elements.</li> <li>Recognition of “palos”. How to clap.</li> </ul>	
Week 12	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: flamenco technique using <i>tangos</i> music, <i>fandangos</i> and <i>alegrías</i>.</b></p> <p><b>Continuation of Granada’s <i>tango</i> choreography.</b></p>	
Week 13	<p><b>History of flamenco and its development: Connection of flamenco with theatre, other styles and poetry.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading selections of <i>Theory and Play of the Duende</i>, by Federico García Lorca.</li> <li>Videos of extracts from the <i>Blood Weddings</i> film, by Carlos Saura and Antonio Gades. (Based on Lorca’s work).</li> <li>Music of <i>Amor Brujo</i> by Falla, with orchestrated flamenco rhythms.</li> </ul>	
Week 14	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: recognition of elements studied in class through a flamenco performance.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance to theatre and <i>tablaó</i> performances.</li> <li>Critics: Scene concept, musical language used, and appreciation of instruments played.</li> </ul>	
Week 15	<p><b>Rehearsal of flamenco: Ending of the tango choreography.</b></p>	

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Ríos Ruiz, Manuel (2002), *El gran libro del flamenco: Historia, estilos, intérpretes*. Madrid: Editorial Calambur.
- Ríos Ruiz, Manuel y Blas Vega, José (1988), *Diccionario enciclopédico ilustrado del flamenco*. Madrid: Editorial Cinterco.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Álvarez Caballero, Ángel (2004), *El cante flamenco*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.

- Álvarez Caballero, Ángel (2003), *El toque flamenco*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
- Álvarez Caballero, Ángel (1998), *El baile flamenco*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
- Gamboa, José Manuel (2005), *Una Historia del flamenco*. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.
- Núñez, Faustino y Gamboa, José Manuel (2006), *Enciclopedia de los estilos flamencos. De la A a la Z*. Universal Music Spain.