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**SPAN 331**  
**SPANISH CONVERSATION**

Professor María Fernández-Lamarque

Span 331

Fall 2012

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Office hours: HL 313 M-W 9- 11am and T in Mesquite 3:30-4:30 pm or by appointment.

Course Description

This class will focus on mastering practical spoken Spanish in its cultural context. Students in this class will develop and practice their oral skills. Our goal is to use language practically and strategically and resolve conflicts in culturally accurate circumstances using appropriate vocabulary. This class is aimed at students in their third year of Spanish and/or those who need the practice to acquire oral fluency. In addition to the practice in class, students are required to set one weekly meeting with the Spanish tutor. There are sign up sheets at the tutor's office HL 119.

Objectives

In this class, students will develop the ability to maintain a conversation, handle common situations in Spanish and negotiate differences of opinion. Also they will enhance their fluency and acquire confidence in using their Spanish by practicing various exercises integrating culture and vocabulary.

SLO: Students will be able to have a conversation in Spanish about health in Latin America and Spain. Students will be able to have a conversation in Spanish about education in Latin America and Spain. This SLO will be assessed by goal achievement in the oral final exam.

Texts

*Conversaciones creadoras*. Third Edition. Brown Joan and Martín Gaité Carmen. ISBN 0618481079

Class Evaluation

Vocabulary quizzes	10%
Visit to the tutors	10%
Debate Leader	15%
Oral Exam	20%
Final Oral Presentation	20%

Presentation (chapter)	15%
Participation	10%

**Note:** Individual improvement will be taken into account in the computation of the final grade.

### Grading Scale

	<b>B+</b> = 87-89	<b>C+</b> = 77-79	<b>D+</b> = 67-69	<b>F</b> = 0-59
<b>A</b> = 93-100	<b>B</b> = 83-86	<b>C</b> = 73-76	<b>D</b> = 63-66	
<b>A-</b> = 90-92	<b>B-</b> = 80-82	<b>C-</b> = 70-72	<b>D-</b> = 60-62	

Attendance and Course Policies This is a conversation course. If you are already fluent in the language or native speaker, this is not the class for you. Class attendance and active participation in discussions are integral to the course. Students are expected to attend ALL CLASSES. However, the first two absences from class have no effect on your grade. These are not “free” absences but to be used due to illnesses, accidents or family related events that will have to be documented. After the third absence, you will receive a participation grade of "0" for every class you miss and one percentage point will be deducted from your final grade from every missed day after two absences. There are no make-ups for these absences. However, you are responsible for all material covered on days that you are absent. You should plan on studying approximately two hours per day and completing all homework/readings assigned by the instructor on time. Arriving to class on time and participating actively every day are a must.

Preparation and Participation for Class Discussion: **Students are expected to come to class prepared by learning the vocabulary for each chapter.** Thorough preparation for all assignments is essential for active participation in class and is expected of all students. Daily in-class participation will be assessed as follows:

**A** (90's) - participates actively in class and small group discussions, prepares homework, volunteers answers and speaks with few mistakes.

**B** (80's) - active participation, prepares homework, volunteers, but makes some mistakes.

**C** (70's) - answers when called upon, may or may not prepare homework, shows little initiative, and makes more frequent mistakes.

**D-F** (50-60's) – shows little-to-no interest in speaking Spanish, does not prepare for class.

Presentation: Each class one student will present the chapter assigned for that session and open the discussion.

Vocabulary Quiz: Each day of class students will be quizzed. The content of the quiz is based on the vocabulary for each chapter.

Visit to the Tutors: Students are required to visit our tutors once a week for a 30 minute conversation session. The conversation topic will cover the specific vocabulary and content covered that week in class. The tutor's office is in Commerce HL 119.

You should sign your NAME and CLASS on the sheet at their office door.

You will receive a grade for each time you go to the tutor. **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR THESE VISITS.** Once the week is over, you will not be able to reschedule for that week's session. Do not wait until the last minute to schedule with the tutors.

Debate leader: Each student will have the opportunity to lead one of the debates in class. The debate leader should come prepared to act as a moderator for the different positions in the class about a certain topic.

Oral Presentation The content will be the reading chapter assigned for that class session. It will consist on a ten-minute presentation summarizing the reading. Students should not read the presentation.

Oral Exam: Students will choose one “escena” from their textbook and prepare a fifteen-minute skit in groups of two or three. Students will be graded considering these aspects: 1)fluency 2)accuracy 3)knowledge of vocabulary 4)pronunciation5)time usage.

Final Oral Presentation: Students will choose a topic related to the ones discussed in class. Once students choose their topic, it must be approved by their instructor. Students will prepare a fifteen-minute presentation about this topic. No Power Point. After the presentation, a ten-minute Q and A session will follow. Students must not read their material.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change during the semester due to circumstances that might arise.

**Statements to students required by the University and the Department of Literatures and Languages**

Behavior: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5835.

**Plagiarism:** *Plagiarism* is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person's character. In short, resist the temptation. And please read carefully the handout on plagiarism to learn how to avoid accidentally committing plagiarism. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3])

## CALENDARIO

### AGOSTO

C1 – lunes  
27

Introducción al curso.

Presentación de los estudiantes.

C2 –  
miércoles  
29

**Capítulo Preliminar**

### SEPTIEMBRE

C3 - lunes  
03

Labor Day

C4 -  
miércoles 5

**Capítulo 1**

C5 - lunes  
10

**Capítulo 2**

**Presentación 1**

C6 -  
miércoles  
12

**Capítulo 2**

**Debate 1:**

C7 – lunes

**Capítulo 3**

17 Presentación 2:

C8 –  
miércoles  
19 **Capítulo 4**  
Presentación 3.

C9 – lunes  
24 **Capítulo 4**  
Debate 2

C10 -  
miércoles  
26 **Capítulo 5**  
Presentación 4.

**OCTUBRE** **Capítulo 5**

C11- lunes  
1 Debate 3

C12 – **Capítulo 6**  
miércoles  
03 Presentación  
5.

C13 - lunes **Capítulo 6**  
8 Debate 4

C14 – **Capítulo 7**  
miércoles  
10 Presentación 6

C15 - lunes Oral Exam  
15

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C16 – miércoles 17	<b>Capítulo 7.</b> Debate 5
C17 – lunes 22	<b>Capítulo 8</b>  Presentación 7
C18 – miércoles 24	<b>Capítulo 8.</b> Debate 6
C19 - lunes 29	<b>Capítulo 9</b>  Presentación: 8
C20 – miércoles 31	<b>NOVIEMBRE</b>
C21 – lunes 5	Cap 9. Debate 7
C22 - miércoles 7	<b>Capítulo 10</b>  Presentación 9
C23 – lunes 12	<b>Capítulo 10.</b> Debate 8
C24 – miércoles 14	<b>Capítulo 11</b>  Presentación 10
C25 – lunes 19	<b>Capítulo 11.</b> Debate 9

C26 –  
miércoles  
21 Thanksgiving

C27 - lunes  
26 **Capítulo 12**  
Presentación 11:

C28-  
miércoles  
28 **Capítulo 12**  
Debate 10  
Presentaciones finales

C29-lunes  
03 Presentaciones finales

C30-  
miércoles  
05 Presentaciones finales

C31- lunes  
10

C32-  
miércoles  
12