



SPA 331 - SPANISH CONVERSATION

Professor María Fernández-Lamarque

SPA 331

Fall 2013

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Office hours: HL 313 M-W 9- 11 am and T in Mesquite 3:30-4:30, 7:10-8:10pm (Of 107) 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. Students will also be exposed to different regional varieties of Spanish. 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 and in the Spanish section office in Mesquite room number 107.

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, cultural diversity and vocabulary.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of their second and third oral presentation and its developed theme. This presentation must show the students understanding and view of themselves as part of a globalized community.

Texts

Conversación y controversia, Sixth Edition. Nino R. Iorillo, Andrés Díaz, Dennis Hale.

Class Evaluation

Class Participation

20%

Visit to the tutors	15%
Debate Leader	15%
Group Presentation	15%
Final Oral Exam	20%
Midterm Oral Exam	15%

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

Grading Scale

	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = 0-59
A = 93-100	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 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 and counts toward your participation grade.

Preparation and Participation for Class Discussion: **Students are expected to come to class prepared by learning the vocabulary for each chapter and completing the assigned readings.** 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 in small group discussions, prepares homework, volunteers, answers questions about the content and comes to class on time and knowing the material.

B (80's) - some participation, prepares homework, sometimes volunteer, knows the material partially.

C (70's) - answers when called upon, may or may not prepare homework, shows little initiative.

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

0 – Does not come to class

Presentation: Each class one student will present the chapter assigned for that session and open the discussion. (Ten-minute presentation)

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 chapter/s topic of that week in class. The tutor's office is in Commerce HL 119 and in Mesquite Room 107. For students in CHEC, please make an appointment with our tutor in Mesquite by emailing her. Your session would be conducted through Skype. You are responsible to set an appointment with the tutors either in Commerce or Mesquite by signing up for a session.

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 specific topic.

Midterm Oral Exam: Students will have a ten-minute conversation with their instructor about one of the topics discussed in class. Students will be graded considering these aspects: 1) fluency 2) accuracy 3) knowledge of vocabulary 4) pronunciation 5) time usage.

Group Oral Presentation: In groups of two, students will choose a historical character related to the topics discussed in class. The character must be a distinguished figure from the Hispanic world and the interviewer should be from another cultural background. Students should prepare a ten-minute interview/skit to present in class (one student will be the interviewed and other the interviewer). Students will be graded considering these aspects: 1) fluency 2) accuracy 3) creativity 4) pronunciation 5) global and cultural awareness

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 ten-minute presentation about this topic, record it and present it in class. No Power Point. After the presentation, a Q and A session will follow. Students must not read their material. Students will be graded considering these aspects: 1) fluency 2) accuracy 3) creativity 4) pronunciation 5) global and cultural awareness

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

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835****Fax (903) 468-8148**Go to the following email address: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.eduGo to the following link: [Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

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 DE ACTIVIDADES**AGOSTO**

lunes 26	Introducción al curso.
miércoles 28	Capítulo 1. El científico y el artista

SEPTIEMBRE

lunes 2	Labor Day
miércoles 4	Capítulo 2. El año 2010
lunes 9	Capítulo 3. El matrimonio nuevo
miércoles 11	Capítulo 4. La popularidad: hombres y mujeres
lunes 16	Capítulo 5. El terrorismo
miércoles 18	Capítulo 6. El Ser Supremo
lunes 23	Capítulo 7. Pasado, Presente, Futuro.
miércoles 25	Capítulo 8. El aborto
lunes 30	Capítulo 9. La eutanasia

OCTUBRE

miércoles 2	Capítulo 10. La migración
lunes 7	Capítulo 11. La salud y la medicina
miércoles 9	Capítulo 12. La censura
lunes 14	Examen oral/Midterm
miércoles 16	Capítulo 13. El suicidio
lunes 21	Capítulo 14. Los gobiernos y la política
miércoles 23	Capítulo 15. Las Naciones Unidas
lunes 28	Capítulo 16. La pena capital...muerte
miércoles 30	Capítulo 17. La herencia y el medio ambiente

NOVIEMBRE

lunes 4	Cap. 18. El narcotráfico
mie 6	Capítulo 19. La fe o la ciencia
lunes 11	Capítulo 20. El spanglish
miércoles 13	Capítulo 21. Actitud ciudadana
lunes 18	Capítulo 22. Los cambios de clima
miércoles 20	Capítulo 23. La educación
lunes 25	Group Oral Presentation
miércoles 27	Thanksgiving Break

DICIEMBRE

lunes 2	Group Oral Presentation
miércoles 4	Repaso
miércoles 11	Examen final 10:30 am-12:30pm.