

SPA333 – 80348

Spanish for Heritage Speakers I (Fall 2014)

Department of Literature & Languages

Texas A&M University – Commerce

Instructor: Dr. Flavia Belpoliti

Meetings: M 4:30-7:10pm at HL305

Office hours: M 1pm-4pm /T&Th 11am-2pm @ HL

Email: flavia.belpoliti@tamuc.edu (Important note: I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.)

Credit hours: 3 CRH

Textbooks*:

1. Roca, Ana. 2013. *Nuevos Mundos 3rd. ed.* Wiley&Sons (ISBN:978-0-470-58898-7)
2. Francés, M. E. and Benítez, R. 2013. *Manual de gramática y ortografía para hispanos.* Pearson (ISBN: 0-205-69652-X)

*Important note: *These textbooks will be course materials for SPA333 and SPA334.*

Prerequisite: Spa 232 or equivalent by exam.

Course description

Heritage language learners are those individuals who are proficient in English and who grew up speaking another language at home; they are able to communicate, at some extend, in more than one language. The main purpose of the Spanish for Heritage Speakers courses is to build upon the language knowledge that students bring to the classroom and develop their proficiency of academic Spanish. Special attention is given to building vocabulary and strengthening composition skills in Spanish. Taught exclusively in Spanish, this course is designed for heritage or native speakers only. For students majoring or minoring in Spanish or bilingual education, this course replaces the SPA 331 requirement.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students will:

- Advance skills in reading and writing complex texts in Spanish.
- Advance knowledge of Spanish grammar and vocabulary.
- Improve orthography with emphasis on the use of written accent.
- Improve accuracy in managing mood and tense for discourse production.
- Develop greater familiarity with the U.S. Hispanic culture.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will critically analyze, discuss and communicate information about a cultural theme that connects the Hispanic communities in the US with the Hispanic world, including topics related to immigration, identity, trans-national experiences and multiculturalism. Completion of the final project will give students a wider perspective on the Hispanic cultures and its contact with other communities, and will increase their understanding of global communities in an interconnected and diverse world. This outcome will be

assessed by an integrative evaluation of the final research project which includes a written report and an in-class presentation.

Evaluation:

Exams	40% (4x10)
Cultural Project	30% (Report 15%+Presentation 15%)
Writing activities	20% (2x10%)
Attendance/Participation	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70
- D 69-60
- F Below 59

Course Workload

1. Attendance & Participation

- **Participation and attendance are fundamental to succeed in this course. Attendance is mandatory.** Students may miss three (3) class sessions for any reason (personal, medical, work, etc.). The fourth (4th) absence and every subsequent absence will cause the loss of two points off the FINAL COURSE GRADE. Even if you are an active participant in the sessions, **missing classes will lead to a low-to-zero participation grade**. Medical or other type of emergencies may be considered as excused absences after review of justification.
- **You should arrive on time. Two late arrivals or early departures by more than 10 minutes equal one absence.** If a student arrives late, s/he needs to talk to the professor at the end of class to make sure that a tardy mark was registered in the class book instead of an absence. If a student misses 3 consecutive sessions and does not contact the instructor, s/he may be dropped from class.
- If you are enrolled in this class, but do not attend the course **you are responsible** for following the withdrawing procedures or an “F” will be entered as your final grade for this class.
- **You should not make travel/family /employment plans** that interfere with classes or exams since make up exams cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
- You are responsible for contacting classmates to obtain any information discussed in the event of class missed.
- Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctions should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department **during the first week of class** indicating the dates they will miss class.
- Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor **during the first week of class**.

2. Exams

There will be four chapter tests on all course material, including vocabulary, grammar structures, reading and writing. Tentative dates are indicated in the course schedule and may be changed as needed. Students requiring special testing accommodations must provide documentation to the Instructor during the first week of class.

Absence from tests:

- If you will be absent from an exam or quiz, you must contact your Instructor in advance.
- You must provide **written documentation for any absence** before a make-up is authorized. No make-ups will be considered without written, justifiable documentation for your absence. Make-ups will be given during the following week of the missed test.
- 'Preexisting travel plans' will not be considered a reasonable cause for missing an Exam or Quiz.
- Sickness without a Dr.'s excuse will not be considered reasonable cause for make-up authorization.

3. Writing activities

There will be two short writing assignments based on covered material. The specific topics will be discussed in class. You will receive further instructions on these assignments; please check the dates for each activity in the class schedule.

- You may not submit a paper or essay already submitted in this or another class for a grade, even if it is **your own work**. This constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. Any assignment in this course is to be original work. You may not seek tutoring or any other kind of help for the writing activities; only your instructor is authorized to give such help. **Use of translation devices or services** to complete a writing task is not allowed either. See section on *Academic Dishonesty* for more information.

4. Cultural project

You will prepare a final cultural project based on assigned readings and class discussions. The project will include different tasks including research, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, writing and formal presentation of the conclusion. In addition, projects will be discussed in class as part of your oral skills' development.

For the report you will submit your work in two different formats: first, you will prepare a rough draft and hand it to your instructor for review before writing the final report in class. Based on the report, you will organize a formal oral presentation which will be scheduled at the end of the semester. This class presentation (about 7 / 8 minutes) should include a complete explanation of selected topic with examples and personal comments. See 'Oral Presentation Instructions' for more details..

5. Homework

Daily homework is a requirement for this class and your instructor can request it anytime; points from your Participation grade will be deducted if your homework is not completed. Many homework assignments and readings are necessary preparation for activities in subsequent classes; therefore, if you have not prepared the homework you will miss the opportunity to participate and take full advantage of the class.

6. Advising and tutoring

Your Instructor: I am your first resource and want to make your experience as positive as possible. Please talk to me if you are having any problems in the course and I will do my best to assist you.

Tutoring: In addition to the required five conversations with the tutors, tutoring in Spanish is available in HL 119. Tutorials are free of charge and are offered daily. A sign-up sheet is on the door.

Advising: To declare a major, second major, or minor in Spanish, or for more information on our program, please contact Dr. Flavia Belpoliti at flavia.belpoliti@tamuc.edu or Dr. Inma Lyons at Inma.Lyons@tamuc.edu

7. Hispanic films showcase

Attendance to the film showings is considered an extra-credit activity; however, Spanish faculty considers this a very important event, and worthy of your presence. Attending the showcase will expand your cultural experience and will provide you different perspectives of the diverse Hispanic cultures. In addition, attendance to this event will help your grade in this Spanish course, as you may earn 2 points per attendance to each of the films. These 2 points will be added to the exams' grades following each film showing. Your instructor will provide the dates/times for the showings.

8. Some rules of the class

- Cellular phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off and stored away.
- No food is allowed in class.
- If you have special learning needs, please contact your instructor.

NOTE: if during a session you decide to use your cell phone, you will be asked to leave the classroom and you will receive an 'absent' for the session.

General information

Students with Disabilities: The *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

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

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Academic Dishonesty: *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. Copying someone else's work, or asking a friend or tutor to write your compositions constitutes a violation of academic honesty policy. Likewise, the use of electronic media to translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. 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]). For further information please see the *Academic Honesty Statement* of the Department of Literature and Languages below.

Notice to those seeking Teacher Certification: Students who plan to teach English, Spanish, or English as a Second Language in Texas public schools must pass the appropriate state certification tests. The Department of Literature and Languages grants approval to take the content-area tests. Additional information about the examinations and internships is available at the Educator Certification office, Ed North 204 (ext. 5182).

Placement Exam: If you have taken *any* Spanish in the past, or if you speak Spanish, you should take the Spanish placement exam. It is offered every day at the Testing Center in the One Stop Shop. You may possibly place out of lower-division classes and receive up to 6 hours of credit! This exam is to help you finish your language requirement sooner, or get you into upper-level classes without repeating work you have already done in the past.

Study Abroad: We encourage students to pursue an immersion experience in Spanish by participating in our study abroad programs. Anytime you plan to complete credits abroad, you must have them approved by the Spanish faculty and advisor BEFORE you leave. Please speak to your professor if you are interested in taking Spanish in Spain or Mexico. As a bilingual student, you can benefit enormously from a study-abroad experience. Financial aid will apply to most destinations and the Office of International Studies offers travel stipends for almost all interested students to travel to a variety of countries. For more information contact Dr. Kenneth Clinton in Ferguson Social Sciences 220, (903) 468-6034.

Tentative schedule

NM: *Nuevos Mundos*

Gram&Ort: *Manual de gramática y ortografía*

Date	Activity	HW
8/25	Presentación del curso. Test diagnóstico. Introducción al Cap. 1	
9/1	Labor Day Holiday	
9/8	NM Cap. 1 Gram&Ort	*9/10: Last day to add a class without Instructor & Dean approval
9/15	NM Cap. 1 Gram&Ort	HW Prep. for essay
9/22	<u>Composición 1</u> NM Cap. 1 Gram&Ort	HW
9/29	Examen I NM Cap. 2 Gram&Ort	HW
10/6	NM Cap. 2 Gram&Ort	HW
10/13	NM Cap. 2 Gram&Ort	HW
10/20	Examen II NM Cap.. 3 Gram&Ort	HW Prep. for essay
10/27	<u>Composición 2</u> NM Cap. 3	HW

	Gram&Ort	
11/3	NM Cap. 3 Gram&Ort	HW Prep. for cultural project
11/10	NM Cap.. 4 Gram&Ort Prep. for cultural project_ Draft	HW
11/17	Examen III NM Cap. 4 Gram&Ort	HW Prep. for cultural project
11/24	NM Cap. 4 Gram&Ort <u>Projecto: Reporte</u>	HW Prep. for cultural project presentation
11/27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday	
12/1	<u>Projecto: Presentaciones orales</u>	*12/2: Last day to Withdraw *12/5: Last day of classes
12/8	Examen IV <u>Projecto: Presentaciones orales</u>	

Academic Dishonesty Appendix

Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Policy #12
April 28, 2003
ACADEMIC HONESTY

Preamble. Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. Faculty members are expected to employ teaching practices that encourage academic honesty.

1. Academic Dishonesty Defined. Texas A&M University-Commerce defines “academic dishonesty” in the following way (Procedure A13.12 “Academic Honesty”): Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

2. “Plagiarism” Further Specified. The Department of Literature and Languages builds on the university definition of “plagiarism,” given in 1, in the following manner (taken from “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The Council of Writing Program Administrators’ Statement on Best Practices” undated, pages 1-2, 12,2003.

<http://www.ilstu.edu/~ddhesse/wpa/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>)

Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. [. . .] Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other

sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

3. "Collusion" Further Specified. Collusion specifically includes selling academic products. According to the Texas Penal Code (*Title 7 Offenses Against Property*, Chapter 32 Fraud, § 32.50 Deceptive Preparation and Marketing of Academic Product), an "'academic product' means a term paper, thesis, dissertation, essay, report, recording, work of art, or other written, recorded, pictorial, or artistic product or material submitted or intended to be submitted by a person to satisfy an academic requirement of the person." The Texas Penal Code also specifies that person commits a Class C misdemeanor offense "if, with intent to make a profit, the person prepares, sells, offers or advertises for sale, or delivers to another person an academic product when the person knows, or should reasonably have known, that a person intends to submit or use the academic product to satisfy an academic requirement of a person other than the person who prepared the product."

4. Responsibility. Matters of academic dishonesty are handled initially by the instructor. If the instructor feels the problem warrants more attention, it should then be pursued through the department head. If the department head and instructor wish, it should be brought to the attention of the Dean of the college for study and review before being referred to the University Discipline Committee (adapted from Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A13.04, "Plagiarism").

Instructors may also Choose to refer cases directly to the University Discipline Committee (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 6.a[2]).

5. Statement for Course Outlines. Instructors of record in the Department of Literature and Languages are required to include an Academic Honesty statement in all course outlines. The following language is suggested for that statement:

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])

6. This Policy supersedes Department of Literature and Languages Policy #12, "Plagiarism," dated October 10, 1990, and will be effective until further notice.

7. The Head of the Department of Literature and Languages is responsible for maintaining this policy current.

Dr. Hunter Hayes, Head, Department of Literature and Languages
April 28, 2003