

Spanish Conversation

COURSE DESIGNATOR MADR 3017

Language of Instruction Spanish

NUMBER OF CREDITS 3 credits

Contact Hours 45 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students who wish to perfect their listening comprehension, oral expression, and general interaction both in conversation and other forms of oral communication (presentations, speeches, etc.). To this end, class activities will include listening exercises, watching films, class debates, conversation simulation and role-play, brief presentations, and other activities of linguistic support (grammar, vocabulary, nonverbal communication, etc.). Taking advantage of the linguistic immersion in which the students are participating, students will be encouraged to interact with their environment and learn in real-life situations.

INSTRUCTOR

TBD

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- For students to perfect their Spanish oral expression and thus communicate effectively in a variety of contexts
- For students to improve their listening comprehension
- For students to reflect on Spanish culture, gaining awareness and appreciation of the cultural issues which arise in daily life

METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught through lectures, conversation practice, films, debates, and field trips both into the city and to Andalucía and the Basque country. To better facilitate the primary objective of this course, for students to perfect their oral communication skills in a variety of contexts, the course is divided into two parts. In the first half of the course, students will practice their conversation skills relating to various topics of everyday life. In the second half of the course, students will watch Spanish films and give presentations on the cultural issues raised in each film, thus gaining experience in both informal and formal speaking. Additionally, students will, over the course of the semester, complete a portfolio with class notes and observations about which topics they find most challenging, interesting, etc.,

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Spanish 1004

REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED READING/MATERIALS

TBD

GRADING

CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	95+	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-94	
B+	86-89	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B	83-85	

B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	76-79	
C	73-75	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	66-69	
D	60-65	
F	<59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of how grades are weighted:

Attendance and Class Participation	20%
Midterm Exam: Presentations	25%
Final Exam: Presentations	25%
Portfolio : Part I	15%
Portfolio: Part II	15%
Overall Grade	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Part I: The Survivor's Manual

Introduction to the Course

- Syllabus
- What does it mean to learn a language?
- Beyond grammar and vocabulary: What you need to know
- Nonverbal communication: Common gestures in Spain
- Communication Strategies

Colloquial Spanish

- Characteristics
- Local Vocabulary

Politeness

- Tú and Usted
- The rituals of greeting and saying goodbye
- Petitions

The City

- Describing our environment
- Asking for and giving directions to find a place in the city
- To the Streets!: A walk through the barrio

Food, Restaurants, and Markets

- Talk about Spanish food
- Speaking strategies in restaurants and markets
- To the Streets!: Visit to the Chamberí Market

The Basque Country

- Visit to the Basque Country

Midterm

- Review
- Midterm Exam: Presentations

Part II: Cultural Debates

Short Film: *As de Corazones*

- Discussion of Film

Film: *Flores de Otro Mundo*

- Discuss cultural identity and multicultural identity in the U.S. and Spain
- Student presentations on cultural issues raised in the film

Film: *También la Lluvia*

- Students presentations on cultural issues raised in the film

Travel to Andalucía

- Cultural Misunderstandings: clichés, stereotypes, beliefs

Film: *Un Franco, Catorce Pesetas*

- Student presentations on cultural issues raised in film
- Group work

Film: *El Norte*

- Student Presentations on cultural issues raised in the film
- Group work

Final Exam

- Review
- Final Exam: Presentations on cultural themes discussed in class
- Turn in completed portfolio

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.