
Spanish Composition & Communication

COURSE DESIGNATOR TLDO 3231

Language of Instruction Spanish

NUMBER OF CREDITS 3 credits

Contact Hours 45 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is directed toward students who wish to improve their knowledge of grammar as well as their ability to express themselves through written Spanish. By completing writing assignments and practicing their oral expression of Spanish, students will grow in their understanding and application of grammar.

Throughout this course grammar will be taught as a tool to aid communication, and so students will learn in the context of diverse communicative activities. Students will be shown varied examples of real-life Spanish which will serve as a point of reflection on how the language functions. The variety of the in-class assignments will allow students to encounter new texts, practice structures, broaden their vocabulary, and interact with their classmates.

At the same time, and stemming from an awareness of the immersion experience in which the students are participate, the first several minutes of each class will be dedicated to addressing any aspects of Spanish linguistics or culture that have sparked the students' curiosity, with the goal of incorporating into the classroom the experiences lived outside of it.

INSTRUCTOR

TBD

COURSE GOAL

- For each student to be able to adequately use the fundamental structures of Spanish grammar, paying special attention to those structures which cause the most problems for students learning Spanish as a second language
- To specifically improve the students' written Spanish skills through the production of texts guided by models to create a portfolio
- To broaden and enrich the students vocabulary through classroom readings and activities

METHODOLOGY

The grammatical structures taught in this class will be first presented by the teacher and then practiced by the students using a variety of activities. Students are expected to participate fully in the classroom at all times. In addition to classroom exercises, the teacher will also give writing assignments and other homework to be completed outside of class. Students are responsible for coming to class prepared.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Spanish 1004

REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

Libro de Referencia Gramatical
Cuaderno de Actividades y Fichas

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	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	86-89	
B	83-85	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	76-79	
C	73-75	
C-	70-72	
D+	66-69	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
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:

Participation and Class Assignments	20%
Written Compositions	35%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
Overall Grade	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

Unit 1

- The noun phrase

Unit 2

- Ser, Estar, Haber

Unit 3

- Uses of the present tense
- Reflexive verbs
- Verbs like 'gustar'

Unit 4

- 'Por' and 'Para'
- Other prepositions

Unit 5

- Past tenses and their uses
- The imperfect, the simple preterite, and the present perfect

Unit 6

- Pronouns
- The accent mark

Unit 7

- The preterit pluperfect
- The imperative

Unit 8

- Uses of the future and conditional tenses

Unit 9

- Introduction to uses of the subjunctive

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.