**SPA 301 Spanish Conversation**

## Course Description

This course is designed to help students improve their oral communication skills in Spanish by engaging them in a variety of interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational tasks. The primary goal is to help students progress toward the mastery of Intermediate-Mid communication skills in Spanish, as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Spanish Conversation is a student-centered skills course designed to maximize student participation at the individual, small group and whole group levels. Spanish is the primary language of instruction, and it is expected that students will communicate with the instructor and with one another in Spanish.

**Course Overview**

This course is organized in three modules around three linguistic functions: describing, narrating and expressing opinions. Within these functions, students work on creating with the language, asking questions, and expressing their ideas with increasing elaboration and detail. To this end we emphasize the study of vocabulary and review grammatical structures relevant to each function. Students are also introduced to communication strategies such as circumlocution and employing expressions such as those for turn-taking, expressing (dis)agreement, asking for clarification, and others.

## Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the successful student will perform the following tasks in spoken Spanish:

1. Describe in series of sentences various aspects of familiar and researched people, places, practices, cultural products, etc.
2. Narrate past events in series of sentences with some control of past tense verbs
3. State opinions and provide simple supporting arguments and reasons
4. Express personal meaning by producing original sentences and strings of sentences
5. Respond to direct questions or requests for information with some elaboration when solicited
6. Ask a variety of questions to obtain basic information in familiar contexts

**Required Textbook:**

There is no required textbook. All the materials will be posted on canvas.

**Class Participation and preparation for in-person classes**

This course reflects a flipped classroom model, in which you will access (listen, view, read, study) most of the course content online. A careful preparation of the materials will allow you to participate in class, and complete Canvas assignments (see section below). This will allow us to use the in-person classes to ask questions, to practice speaking and listening comprehension, and to discuss and reflect on the readings. It is your responsibility to pay attention to all the elements that are assigned in the calendar at the end of this document (this information is also available on the Modules section in Canvas).

Your class participation is graded according to your level of engagement with the course, whether that has to do with accessing Canvas materials regularly prior to class, completing assignments on time, and participating actively in Spanish during class activities/discussions, and being responsive to all course announcements and activities.

Class participation is evaluated three times during the semester (week 5, 10, and 15). The evaluation consists of a self-evaluation and reflection completed by the student (50 points) and a grade assigned by the instructor (50 points) following the participation rubric that is available on Canvas.

You should expect to access Canvas a minimum of 3-5 times per week and to spend at least 5-6 hours per week on this course to complete assignments, access course materials, and complete assessment activities.

**Homework assignments completed in Canvas**

Students will complete part of the course work in Canvas. This implies completing readings, watching videos and answering questions; and recording videos about different topics, among others. Each assignment and its due date are clearly explained in Canvas.

These assignments are an integral part of the course and your grade and you must submit them on the due date. Late submissions are only accepted due to medical reasons.

**Journal**

During the semester you will write 6-8 journal entries about some of the topics that are discussed in class. The extension of the first three will be approximately 150-200 words; the rest will be 250-300 words.

**Exams of modules (2)**

There will be a written test after the first two modules (the third will be assessed during the final exam). Each one will last approximately 25 minutes and will test the vocabulary and grammatical structures from the lessons in that module.

**Oral Evaluations**

● **Individual oral presentation** in which the student **describes** a cultural celebration or tradition

● **Conversation** with another student in which each student tells (**narrates**) a past experience while the other student listens and **asks questions**. Then the students reverse the roles. (Graded individually)

● **Tertulias** - Working in groups, students identify topics somehow related to course material that will generate discussion. They provide preparation materials (reading, vocabulary practice, questions) for their classmates and organize a debate about the topic. The objective is to **express and explain opinions** and to integrate the other functions practiced (description and narration). (Graded in part individually and in part as a group)

**Final exam**

The final exam is divided into three parts:

* A final oral interview (50 points) conducted in the last week of classes. This is a conversation with your instructor about the topics covered during the semester.
* Final written exam (30 points) - About the third module and the oral evaluation 3
* Final written reflection (20 points) - Written in Word and turned in through Canvas

## Late Assignments

You need to be proactive and take the initiative to complete and submit all course work by the scheduled deadlines. Since you will be submitting most of the assignments electronically using Canvas, you need to prepare yourself for unforeseeable technical problems, which is to say, do not wait until the last minute to upload an assignment or complete a quiz. Technical problems should be addressed to the Technology Service Center (TSC). All assignments must be submitted by the due dates posted in the Course Schedule. Failure to meet the posted deadline will result in you receiving zero points. Late assignments will only be accepted in the event of documented family or health emergencies or participation in military service. Arrangements must be made as early as possible by emailing the instructor. Points will not be subtracted for late assignments.

It is highly recommended that you make backup copies of your assignments before submitting them for grading. Some suggestions for backing up your assignments are to copy them to your computer, a secure storage location “in the cloud”, such as Google Drive, or an external hard drive that you keep in a safe place. It is imperative that you verify your assignment file submissions immediately after each has been uploaded. You can easily do this by checking the ‘Grades’ section of the course immediately after submission.

**Calendario del curso**:

**Semana 1: Introducción al curso**

1. Lee el syllabus
2. La circunlocución y repaso
3. Ser y estar
4. Evaluación inicial

Módulo 1: Cultura y tradiciones (descripción)

**Semana 2**

1. El arte: Si hoy tu humor fuese un cuadro, ¿cuál sería?
2. Fiestas Fascinantes: Los Sanfermines, el Carnaval de Barranquilla y el 25 de mayo.
3. Comparaciones

**Semana 3**

1. Fiestas Fascinantes: Los Sanfermines, el Carnaval de Barranquilla y el 25 de mayo.
2. Comidas del mundo hispano: El burrito
3. Palabras afirmativas y negativas

**Semana 4**

1. Espacios
2. **Evaluación uno**

Módulo 2: Historias de nuestra comunidad y del mundo hispano (narración)

**Semana 5**

1. **Examen 1**
2. Los inmigrantes en nuestra comunidad: Entrevista
3. Repaso de los tiempos verbales: El presente perfecto, el pretérito y el imperfecto
4. Las partículas interrogativas

**Semana 6**

1. Los inmigrantes en nuestra comunidad: Entrevista
2. Una visión del mundo hispano a través de las noticias.
3. La narración en el pasado: Usos del pretérito y del imperfecto

**Semana 7**

1. Película

**Semana 8**

1. Película
2. La educación durante la pandemia
3. **Entregar el vocabulario y el esquema de la composición**

**Semana 9**

No hay clase (Vacaciones de primavera)

**Semana 10**

1. La educación durante la pandemia
2. **Evaluación oral 2**
3. **Entregar el borrador de la composición**

Módulo 3: Desigualdad y movimientos sociales (expresar opinión)

**Semana 11**

1. La pobreza y la desigualdad
2. La mina del diablo
3. Repaso de las formas verbales: El presente de subjuntivo
4. **Examen módulo 2**

**Semana 12**

1. La mina del diablo
2. Los deportes
3. El presente de subjuntivo

**Semana 13**

1. Los muralistas mexicanos y las protestas por la desigualdad
2. Preparación para las tertulias

**Semana 14**

1. Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA)
2. Preparación para las tertulias

**Semana 15**

1. Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA)
2. Preparación para las tertulias

**Semana 16**

1. **Evaluación 3: Tertulias**