

THE CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY

Calle Harinas, 16 & 18, Seville, Spain

SPAN 405 ADVANCED TOPICS IN SPANISH LANGUAGE

Professor: Milagros Molina

SPRING

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to perfect spoken and written Spanish for advanced-level students, including native speakers. The goal is that students at this level enrich their vocabulary and grammar, solving those especially complex grammatical problems as they present themselves, and improving their vocabulary through the different registers of the language. In addition, this course seeks to improve the writing skills of the students with the goal that they be able to write any type of text or document.

STRUCTURE

This course will combine three fundamental elements: grammar, vocabulary, and written text.

The grammar topics will be pulled directly from the problems the class brings forward out of lectures and conversations, and from particularly complex grammatical structure.

The vocabulary will be based on the study of different semantic fields and on colloquial language. The use of synonyms will be encouraged to add richness and variety. Students will work with formal, colloquial, familiar, and technical expression.

The writing assignments are directed at improving the syntax and the linguistic coherence of students through different styles of writing. These texts should follow the guidelines in the Writing Program only in regards to formatting, since due to the particular nature of this course, the professor will define the characteristics of each assignment to be written. These writing assignments will allow students to reflect on the knowledge they have acquired and will encourage the development of critical thinking in Spanish. What is more, the papers will be corrected in symbols and returned to the students, to be revised and turned in again.

In addition to these three principal components, the classes will be complemented by other types of activities, such as:

Conversations about current events, life, and culture in Spain

Discussions and debates to develop student communication skills and their capacity for analysis and criticism

Oral presentations about topics related to culture and life in Spain

Reading different types of texts pertaining to different linguistic registers such as literature, advertisements, journalism, scientific texts, etc., which will support topics in grammar and vocabulary

Listening to interviews, songs, radio programs, etc. to develop listening comprehension

Group or individual projects such as presentations on topics prepared ahead of time by the student, creating dialogues out of specific vocabulary, role-playing to represent opinions, characters, situations, etc.

Screenings of television series or programs, documentaries, etc. used as a basis for creating conversations or debates about current topics

EVALUATION

Participation	20%
Papers.....	20%
Quizzes.....	20%
In-class assignments.....	20%
Final examination	20%

This course will focus on oral as well as written communication, so attendance and participation in class activities is required. If the student has an unexcused absence, the participation grade for that day will be a zero. The participation grade is contingent upon the student's contribution to the class, keeping in mind that participation includes not only speaking but contributing to debates, raising topics related to the work, vocabulary and grammar issues, and speaking without being called on by the professor. Participation is therefore fundamental to the development of the class and for learning the language.

Students will complete 4 papers (approximately 300 words) in different writing styles following guidelines set up by the professor.

In-class assignments will be varied: oral presentations, writing and speaking exercises, students observing expressions and phrases on the street, special usages, commentaries and analyses of newspaper texts. There will also be 2 quizzes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Valdés, G., T. Dvorak y T. Hannum. *Composición: proceso y síntesis*. McGraw-Hill Inc. 1989.
Moliner, María. *Diccionario de uso del español*. Madrid, Gredos: 1980.
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Gran diccionario de sinónimos y antónimos, Espasa Calpe.
Ramón Sarmiento: *Manual de corrección gramatical y de estilo (español normativo, nivel superior)*, Sgel, 1997.
J.F. García Santos: *Sintaxis del español (nivel perfeccionamiento)*. Universidad de Salamanca y Santillana, S.A. 1993.

TOPICS

Topics in Grammar:

- Accents
- Subjunctive mood
- Verbal paraphrases
- Uses of the "se" passive
- Passive voice
- Non-personal forms of the verb
- Correcting grammar problems found directly in the students

Forms of the Language:

- Language in different forms of communication. Journalism.
- Language in advertisement
- Language in literary texts
- Colloquialisms and vulgarity
- Popular expressions

Writing Styles

- Descriptive writing
- Narration
- Argumentative texts
- Expository texts: contrast and cause and effect
- The essay

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each week, specific topics in grammar and vocabulary will be addressed in class based on the different types of activities students will bring home related to course material. In dealing with a course adapted to the needs of the students, it will be the students who provide material needed for the development of the course.