

Conversation & Oral Skills

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Spanish

DESCRIPTION:

An optional three-credit course that complements the development of linguistic competences facilitated at the three-hundred level Spanish courses, focusing on the oral skills in particular.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- exchange opinions, points of view, personal experiences, feelings regarding a topic of general interest
- provide reasoned arguments in favor or against a controversial topic
- organize the information of an oral presentation on a topic of general interest in a coherent way
- fill lexical gaps in the production with paraphrases or other communication strategies
- analyze, to contrast and to consider the perceptions, values, attitudes, and behaviors of the different cultures in Spain with respect to the student's culture.

SYLLABUS:

Teachers will show the weekly plan for the lessons. Remember the school follows the Common European Framework for Languages.

Except for changes that substantially affect the implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Please be aware that this is a "flexible" syllabus, and it may be necessary to modify it throughout the semester due to pedagogical considerations. Any changes, however, will be minimal.

WEEK	SUBJECT
Week 1	Presentation Unit 1 El carácter español p.5-9
Week 2	Autonomous Communities in Spain Unit 1: El carácter español p.10-12 Todoele tópicos españoles
Week 3	Spanish customs and culture shock. Unit 1: El carácter español p.10-12 Todoele tópicos españoles
Week 4	Public and private school systems in Spain Unit 3: La educación Española p.21-18
Week 5	Music festivals Traditional Hispanic music (AIP Material) Unit 4 La música popular p.29-36
Week 6	Train itineraries in Spain. Unit 6 Viajes con encanto p.45-52
Week 7	Political parties in Spain Voting system Unit 5 La política Española p.37-44

Week 8	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 9	Hispanic newspapers Magazines Unit 7 Los medios de comunicación p.53-60
Week 10	Hispanic architects Singular buildings Unit 8 ¡Arte en todas partes! p.61-68
Week 11	Women in history Unit 9 Momentos de la historia p.69-76
Week 12	Spanish health system Unit 10 Cuestión de salud p.77- 84 Social System in Spain Unemployment services Unit 11 El sistema laboral p.85-92
Week 13	FINAL EXAM

Important: This calendar might be subject to changes throughout the semester.

ASSESSMENT

Attendance and participation (10%)

Students are expected to actively take part in class.

Excused absences comprise the following: participation in a scheduled event as a member of a university-sponsored athletic/scholastic team (official absence form required); religious holidays; accident or illness (accident report or health/doctor's note required); and death in the immediate family and other documented crises. Excuses for absences must be submitted within two (2) days after the day of return. Absences due to delayed or missed flights, trains, buses, etc. are UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.

One unexcused absence per course will not have repercussions on a student's grade. Two unexcused absences will lower your grades by 5 %. Three unexcused absences will lower your grades by 10%. Classes start punctually. Late arrivals and early departures from class will count as half an absence. It is important to be prompt. 2 lates equals 1 unexcused absence.

Students are responsible for making up all work missed during absences. Students may not make up graded work for unexcused absences. Except in the case of excused absences or extreme extenuating circumstances the following will be the policy of this class:

- Late assignments will not be accepted.
- There will be no "make-up's" of quizzes or exams.

A student who misses 25% of total course hours will be considered as having abandoned the course and the final course grade will be reported as a fail.

Homework (15%)

Students are required to complete daily homework assignments.

All assignments must be submitted at the beginning of each class. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Oral Portfolio (25%)

Instructions for the Oral Portfolio:

To complete the Oral Portfolio you will have to finish four oral tasks out of class. At the end of this syllabus, you have five tasks. You will have to choose 4 to be completed with your teacher's help. Prepare your future dialogue/monologue. Prepare what you are going to say, reflect on how you want to start and finish your intervention. Look up the words and expressions you may need in a dictionary or ask your teacher's help. Practice them orally. Take note on how you think the dialogue will develop and rehearse your part. Accomplish the monologue or dialogue orally. If you can, record yourself to listen to it later. Practice it until you feel satisfied with the result.

Each time you prepare one of these tasks, reflect on the following aspects: Which comprehension difficulties have you had? Have you experienced problems finding the right word, the gender of a noun or the correct verb form? Have you had doubts pronouncing anything? Which ones? How did you solve them?

Midterm Exam (25%)

Students will be asked about the topics studied from the beginning of the course till the day of the test. The midterm exam will cover all topics, readings, and discussions from previous class meetings. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Final exam (25%)

The final exam will cover all topics, readings, and discussions from previous class meetings. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Grades

Final grades will be assigned according to the point earned on a scale from 0-10

Textbook

Curso dirigido a la conversación Tema a tema B1, Grupo Edelsa.