SPAN 3040 Advanced Spanish Grammar

MWF, 9:30–10:20, GEOL 308
Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Joshua J. Thoms
Office: Main 202 J
Office Hours: Fridays 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
E-mail: joshua.thoms@usu.edu
Office Phone: 435–797–9065
Department Chair: Dr. Brad Hall, Main 204 A

Required texts/components


2. Online grammar website (called *MySpanishKit*):
http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/mylanguagelabs/

3. Packet of Spanish short stories and exercises (no need to purchase this last resource; you can download it as a PDF via our course’s Canvas webpage).

NOTE: The first two/required resources listed above are available for purchase as a bundle from the publisher via the USU bookstore. However, if you choose to purchase the one required text separately somewhere else (e.g., from a discounted textbook website), you will then need to purchase access to the online website *MySpanishKit* via the following website:
http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/mylanguagelabs/. On the right-hand side of the website, click on the green ‘Student’ button under ‘Register’ and follow the directions regarding how to purchase an access code. A handout explaining how to register for your *MySpanishKit* account will be provided to you during the first day of class and via the Canvas webpage for this course.
Goals of the course

The primary purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth understanding of Spanish grammar via a number of literary, artistic, and cinematic ‘texts’. In addition to extensive exposure to and practice with Spanish grammatical and lexical exercises, much of our time will be dedicated to interacting with each other both inside and outside of our classroom which, in turn, will help to build our knowledge of Spanish grammar. As a result, a second goal of the course is to strengthen and improve students’ abilities to read, write, listen, and speak in Spanish. Along the way, we will also address cultural issues/topics unique to the Spanish-speaking world.

Course policy on the use of Spanish in class

All classes are conducted exclusively in Spanish; English is not permitted. The purpose of this policy is to maximize your contact with the spoken language. Please ask the instructor to slow down or repeat if you have not understood something. If you can’t express something in Spanish the way you want to, try to think of a simpler way to get the same idea across. If anything is unclear in class and you want to follow up with the professor about it in English, please visit with him during his office hours.

Components of the course

Each of the components of the course is described below.

*Participation. This class is designed to provide a lively and supportive forum for the ongoing discussion of and learning about a number of issues related to Spanish grammar. Your participation in the activities of the class is a key component of their usefulness. “Participation” in this class includes your regular, active contributions to the discussions about the readings and your involvement in any oral report/presentation given by your classmates or the professor. Being an active participant in the class also requires that you come to class prepared and ready to learn. You will receive a grade for your in-class participation (see ‘Grading’ section below).

*Attendance. Please note that regularly attending class will help to ensure that you learn the content covered in the course. Attending class regularly will also make sure that you do not miss any homework that might be assigned in class for the following class meeting. Therefore, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get any notes/information from a fellow classmate. You will be given an attendance grade in this class. You will receive one point for attending each class during the course of the semester (see the ‘Grading’ section below). Your attendance grade will then be calculated at the end of the semester. If you miss a class when there is a graded activity scheduled (e.g., an exam or writing activity), it is your responsibility to email me as soon as you can regarding your absence on that particular day. In order for you to make up the graded activity, you will need to provide me written documentation that indicates why you were absent. If I determine that the absence is excusable, I will allow you to make up the graded activity. Acceptable written documentation includes signed documentation from a doctor if you are sick (please request this while visiting the doctor), a program from a funeral or wedding, etc. If the absence is deemed inexcusable (a planned family vacation or you had to work late (or early) at your job, etc.), you will not be allowed to make up the graded activity. Failure to provide me with written documentation upon your arrival in the NEXT class after the one that you missed will also result in you not being able to make up the graded activity. Finally, please attend class on time and do not leave early. Coming late and/or
leaving early disrupts class activities and should be avoided. If this becomes a chronic problem, I will begin deducting several points from your participation.

*Unannounced Quizzes and Exams. An important part of the learning process involves periodic assessment of your knowledge/understanding of course content. Part of the assessment process will involve quizzes and exams.

1. Unannounced Quizzes: During the course of the semester, five unannounced quizzes will be administered. The quizzes will evaluate your reading and understanding of the text(s) assigned on that particular day or will assess recent grammatical concepts/rules that we have studied in class. If you do a careful reading of the texts and complete all required homework assignments, then you should do well on the quizzes. Please note that the unannounced quizzes cannot be made up for any reason; if you are gone on the day of a quiz (regardless of the reason—even an emergency), you will not be allowed to make up that quiz. As a compromise for the strict policy, I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester. As a result, only the highest 4 quiz grades will count towards your final grade.

2. Exams: This course will have three exams. Each exam will assess concepts/grammar that have been covered since the last exam. More information about the format of the exams will be provided to you before they are administered.

*Homework. Another important component of learning Spanish grammar is by completing the homework that is assigned during the course of the semester. Some of the homework will be assigned and completed online via the MySpanishKit website (see the detailed daily schedule below for when those exercises are due; additional online exercises may be added during the semester). Please note that any activities assigned on the MySpanishKit website will be due by 9:30 a.m. (by the time our class begins) on the day indicated in the schedule below. Other homework/activities will be assigned in class. More details about the MySpanishKit website will be provided to you during the first week of class.

*Research project: The research project is one that will be done in small groups (e.g., ~4 students). Two major components will make up the research project: (a) a written section, and (b) an oral presentation. The research project will be carried out throughout the course of the semester with both the written requirement and oral presentation due during the last week of the semester. More details will be provided to you in class about the nature of the collaborative project.

*In-class writing activities. Writing serves not only as a way to practice the grammatical concepts addressed in the course, but also allows you to communicate your thoughts/ideas about the various literary, artistic, and cinematic topics that we will discuss throughout the course of the semester. In addition to various informal writing exercises, three formal writing activities will be carried out during the semester. Each of the writing activities will be worth 20 points (10 pts. for content and 10 pts. for accuracy). After receiving feedback from the professor on the first draft, a second correction phase will be required for each paper where you will correct grammatical problems/errors indicated by the professor. This second phase/draft will be worth 10 points. More detailed information about the writing activities and correction phase/second draft will be explained in class.
Grading

Participation (which also includes having completed any homework assigned in class) (3 @ 15 pts.) 5%

Attendance (1 pt. @ 40 class meetings = 40 pts.) 10%

Homework
MySpanishKit activities (3 @ 10 pts.) 10%

Research project (100 pts.) 15%

Unannounced quizzes (4 @ 10 pts.) (only the top 4 will count) 15%

In-class writing activities (3 @ 20 pts. + 3 revisions @ 10 pts.) 15%

Exams (3 @ 50 pts.) 30%

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.9%</td>
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Please note that I *do not* award extra credit in my courses. Requesting extra credit at any time (especially at the end of the semester when you realize that your grade might not be where you want it to be) will only result in a frustrating experience for you and me. Be responsible for your learning and start earning your grade from the beginning of the semester.

Academic Honesty/Integrity

It is your responsibility to know the definitions and consequences of plagiarism; please read the Academic Honesty/Integrity section of the USU General Catalog:

http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=265&returnto=search

Other

If you have any complaints about this course, I ask you to first bring them directly to me. Should we not be able to resolve your concerns to your satisfaction, you would then speak to Dr. Brad Hall, Chair of the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Speech Communication (Main 204 A).
Please let me know during the first week of class (after class or during my office hours) if you have a disability for which special arrangements may be needed, such as modification in seating.

**Canvas**

This course will use a Canvas webpage. Therefore, please be sure that you are checking your USU e-mail account or forwarding your USU e-mail to an account you check regularly as announcements/updates about the course will be made via Canvas. To access this course’s Canvas page, please visit the following website and log in to your Canvas account: [https://canvas.usu.edu/](https://canvas.usu.edu/)

**Notes in Spanish Podcasts**

Periodically, you will be directed to listen to a podcast in Spanish that addresses a cultural, literary, artistic, or grammatical topic. You will be asked to write a short summary of the podcast while also writing an informal reaction to the topic that is addressed in the podcast. These assignments are designed to (a) improve your listening ability in Spanish, (b) expose you to cultural topic(s) unique to the Spanish-speaking world, and (c) push you to use/express the grammatical topics that we are learning about in class. We will listen to podcasts from the website [Notes in Spanish](http://www.notesinspanish.com/).

**Other Technologies Used In This Course**

In addition to Canvas, we will also periodically use other kinds of interactive technologies that are designed to help you engage with the content of the course and with fellow classmates in a virtual environment. Some of these technologies will require you to use a computer with a high speed Internet connection as well as requiring you to make use of a microphone. If you don’t have this hardware in your home/dorm, many of the computer labs on campus will have what you need to complete some of the technology-mediated assignments in our class. More details about the use of the various technologies/applications will be provided to you during the course of the semester.