

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The focus of this course is to develop an advanced oral proficiency in Spanish through the study of Spanish and Spanish American cultural, political, economical and historical issues from both national and regional perspectives. This is a content-based course that focuses primarily on the development of oral language skills. Therefore, part of a student's grade will reflect his/her linguistic improvement throughout the semester. The topics discussed in class will serve to develop oral proficiency, but their understanding will also be considered an integral part of the course, and will therefore be assessed. This course will also focus on the development of effective strategies for oral communication through a wide range of activities such as electronic conversations, role-plays, presentations, debates and interviews. These activities will enable students to discuss, analyze and develop arguments in diverse contexts and with varying levels of formality. Due to the nature of this course students will also become acquainted with current events and issues through authentic materials ranging from music, written news, radio and television broadcasts, documentaries, and feature films.

By the end of the semester, students should have greatly improved their oral proficiency, their knowledge about Spain and Spanish America, and their strategies for effective oral communication. They will be prepared to analyze different issues, express their opinion in different circumstances and successfully interact and communicate in a Spanish speaking country as a tourist or exchange visitor.

D) ADVANCED ORAL PROFICIENCY

- Ability to handle a wide variety of communicative tasks using the past, present, and future tenses.
- Ability to discuss concrete and factual topics of personal and public interest in formal and informal situations.
- Use of connectors to link sentences into paragraphs level discourse.
- Errors very rarely interfere with communication; good control of frequent constructions, good control of present, past and future tenses; and use of complex tenses and grammatical structures.
- Natural and continuous speech
- Good control of the common, general vocabulary, and some use of specialized terminology. Successful use of circumlocution to get the message across and to compensate for lack of precise vocabulary.
- Adapt language use to a variety of social situations. Express opinions and take part in discussions in a culturally acceptable way.
- Few errors in pronunciation
- Express and support your ideas based on the information you have studied.
- Express agreement or disagreement to interlocutor's arguments, and express your counter points effectively and persuasively.
- Justify your arguments with examples, counter-examples, and real information.
- Take part in a discussion or debate, as a participant or leader.

- Express your ideas in a formal or informal presentation.
- Effectively carry out an interview.

Listening

- Understand TV news and documentaries referring to current affairs or Spanish and Spanish American issues in general.
- Understand movies in Spanish.
- Understand spoken input, both formal and informal.
- Understand complex spoken argumentation.
- Understand and keep up with typical spoken discourse of moderate length, even if it deals with complex issues that include economic or political terminology.

II) STRATEGIES

- Effective use of listening strategies (pre-listening, listening and post-listening).
- Effective use of speaking strategies: speak clearly and appropriately to different audiences (formal and informal register), and with different purposes (inform, convince, express an idea, defend/oppose an idea).
- Research skills
- Develop analytical skills (summarizing, inferring, analyzing, relating, comparing)

III) CONTENTS

- Understand Spanish and Spanish American current affairs both viewed from within and compared to the rest of the world.
- Understand both past and current cultural issues: including literature, and music.
- Understand the socio-economical and political situation of Spain or of some Spanish American countries, by both analyzing current affairs and the region's main historical facts.
- Understand current traditions and customs of Spain and Spanish American world.