

Span 3301W
Intermediate Spanish Writing

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course focuses on the development of advanced writing abilities in Spanish through the study of different writing techniques, and the practice of pre-writing and writing skills in Spanish. The course will be conducted as a workshop for problem-solving and practice. Some of the topics covered in the course will be: the conventions of professional communication and letter writing, writing summaries and critiques, data-commentary and the language of quantitative sciences, academic writing, as well as film and literature criticism.

The emphasis of the course is on writing as a process and as a form of critical inquiry. By the end of the semester, we expect that you will be able to communicate more clearly and effectively in Spanish, which will allow you to undertake more advanced courses in Spanish, or use these skills outside the classroom in your future professional activities.

The course will achieve these goals by (a) exposing you to authentic models of the different writing techniques, and analyses of their organization and style, (b) giving you opportunities to explore ideas and experiment with prewriting techniques and different organizational methods, (c) exposing you to meaningful and creative individual and collaborative writing activities (c) promoting critical peer- and self- editing and proofreading (d) emphasizing the discursive and communicative nature of writing, (e) focusing both on important linguistics elements (grammar, vocabulary and connecting devices) as well as on content and organizational aspects of writing in Spanish, (f) giving you constant feedback on all your written work.

More specifically, by the end of the semester you should be able to do the following things:

- ❑ use a bilingual dictionary effectively
- ❑ write structurally cohesive compositions with a variety of discourse markers
- ❑ present information in a coherent manner (introduction, development of the argument, conclusion)
- ❑ write different types of narrative and expository texts in an organized manner (comparison and contrast, opinion, cause and effect, critical (argumentative) writing, etc.)
- ❑ write for different tones, audiences (register), and purposes (inform, convince, defend or oppose an idea)
- ❑ reflect on and improve your written work by proofreading it with an eye for logical connectors, grammar and vocabulary covered in the course
- ❑ reflect on and improve your written work by editing it for content, organization, cohesion, and style
- ❑ write a research paper

LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE

To advance in your writing, you will review certain grammatical aspects of the Spanish language, most of them at the syntax level. You will also review all the different elements that

form the discursive and textual level of the Spanish language (conjunctions, discourse markers). In order to be able to effectively write in Spanish you need, among other things, a solid linguistic foundation (both grammatical and lexical). This means you need to study and internalize the grammar and vocabulary you are exposed to, and then practice it both in your class writing tasks, and at home doing your homework. By the end of the semester, it is expected that you know the following language points:

Spanish discourse markers

- ❑ How to arrange chronological information
- ❑ How to analyze and classify information
- ❑ How to compare and contrast
- ❑ How to express cause and effect
- ❑ How to introduce a topic and conclude
- ❑ How to introduce arguments
- ❑ How to mark transitions (to express relationship between ideas, to mark a change of topic, to summarize a text, etc)

Spanish grammar

- ❑ Use of prepositions (*a, con, de, en, por, para*)
- ❑ Prepositional verbs
- ❑ Past tenses
- ❑ Passive voice
- ❑ Subjunctive mode
- ❑ Sequence of tenses
- ❑ Subordination (compound sentences)
- ❑ Relative pronouns
- ❑ Impersonal verbal forms (infinitive, gerund, and participle)