

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
SPAN 202 (SPANISH FOR ORAL COMMUNICATION THROUGH CULTURAL TOPICS)

Required material:

1 8-cm DVD-R (1.4GB) for video recording

Recommended material:

Harper Collins Spanish Concise Dictionary. Harper Collins Publishers: Glasgow, 2004.

Electronic resource:

<http://oak.vanderbilt.edu>

I. Goals:

This is a content-based language course that focuses primarily on the development of advanced oral language proficiency through the study of Spanish and Spanish American cultural, political, economic, and historical issues from both national and regional perspectives. The course has three main goals: (1) the development of effective *strategies for oral communication* through a wide range of activities such as electronic conversations, pair, group, and whole class discussions, 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; (2) the development of *argumentation techniques* in Spanish through the study of *textual dimensions* of the oral discourse (argumentative sequences, questions, connecting devices and transitions, etc.); (3) expansion of both *vocabulary* (from concrete to abstract) and *register* (formal versus colloquial). Due to the nature of this course, students will become acquainted with current events and issues through *authentic materials* ranging from written news, radio and television broadcasts, documentaries, and feature films. The most important part of a student's grade will reflect his/her linguistic improvement throughout the semester, but understanding of the contents discussed is considered an integral part of the course, and will therefore be assessed as well. By the end of the course, students will have improved their oral language proficiency and achieved a greater familiarity with Hispanic cultural, economic and history-related topics.

** Please note that some sections offered contain a Service Learning component as well (see course schedule.)**

II. Course Objectives for Spanish 202:

The focus of this course is to develop an advanced oral proficiency in Spanish through the study of Spanish and Spanish American cultural, political, economic 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.

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.

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)

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-economic 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.

III. Assessment:

Grade Breakdown: Your grade will be determined according to the following criteria:

1. In-class performance (2 grading periods)	20%
2. Oral Evaluations	35%
a) Role Play (2)	12%
b) Estilo Indirecto (1)	7%
c) Debate (1)	10%
d) Interview (1)	6%
3. Electronic Discussion Board (4)	10%
4. Homework	15%
5. Presentation (1)	5%
6. Final Presentation (1)	15%

Expectations for each category are as follows. See calendar for assignment due dates.

1. In-class performance

You are expected to participate actively in class and to come to class well prepared (assignments and other tasks are specified in the daily syllabus). This involves reading newspapers, studying maps, revising vocabulary lists, watching assigned video materials, searching the Internet for relevant information about a specific topic, or consulting web sites already assigned by the instructor.

To participate actively, you will need to come to class well prepared in terms of vocabulary and ideas, and *willing to talk*. Oral communication does not imply perfection, but it

does necessitate an increasing ability and willingness to convey what you want to say in Spanish. In addition to your oral participation, your in-class performance also includes your attitude towards your classmates, the degree to which you have prepared the assignments, your involvement in collaborative pair and group work, etc. You will receive 2 in-class performance grades throughout the semester, based on an established series of concrete criteria (see grading sheet). Be aware that just attending the class will not get you a satisfactory grade in this component.

2. Oral evaluations

a) Role Play (2)

This is a paired, lab-administered assessment. You will receive a description of your role during class time, and then you will have a few minutes to organize and practice. The emphasis is on spontaneous speech, but the situations will reflect, to some degree, linguistic functions and cultural, historical, or political topics covered in class.

b) Estilo Indirecto (1)

This is an individual, lab-administered assessment. You will be evaluated on your ability to use indirect speech to report on something you have heard, or a video clip you have watched. You will be asked to listen to specific, recorded information, and then will be expected to relay that information to your instructor.

c) Debate (1)

This is a group, class-administered assessment. You will participate in a debate with your classmates in groups of 6-8. You will be graded on your argumentation skills, as well as accuracy and fluency. While one group is debating, the other members of the class will act as an audience, and will be expected to ask questions and discuss the debate afterwards.

d) Interview (1)

This is an individual, out-of-class assessment. You will be provided with a series of prompts (pictures or short texts) and then you will hold a conversation with your instructor using those as starting points, but then expanding to other related aspects and topics. The conversation will last 20 minutes, and the emphasis will be on spontaneity of expression, as well as fluency and accuracy.

3. Electronic discussion board

You will participate in four (4) Blackboard (BB) electronic discussions that will deal with various issues of interest. Your instructor will post a text or a short video to which you will react/respond in writing, during a specified time frame. You are expected to write at least twice, a minimum of 200 words (in total). You are also expected to post your first message no later than 48 hours after the beginning of the discussion board. In your writing, you need to show that you have read and understood the article. In addition, you must demonstrate that you have read what your classmates have written about the same topic, by making comments on what they write, showing your agreement, disagreement, etcetera. Both increased accuracy (vocabulary, grammar, discourse connectors) and fluency in writing are expected.

4. Homework

You are expected to watch five (5) movies and to prepare for various oral and written activities dealing with the issues suggested by each film. For each movie that you will watch, you will have to turn in a typed movie guide to your instructor on designated dates, for a total of five (5) guides (some of these films are rated R or NC-17, which signals that they may contain disturbing images, scenes of violence, strong language, profanity, nudity, explicit sex scenes, drug abuse.) In addition, you will be assigned five (5) video tasks that will help you focus on oral strategies and linguistic aspects that are assessed in this course. Part of the homework will include vocabulary quizzes based on vocabulary lists provided by the instructor. Also, there is no such thing as extra credit work. If a student cannot perform the assigned work, it will be extremely difficult for the student to perform any additional work. Electronic submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

5. Presentation

On designated dates during the semester you will have to present a topic related to a specific theme that will be assigned to you by your instructor. Your instructor will provide a series of sources to guide you. Each presentation should last up to 6 minutes. You will be asked to supplement your presentation with *Power Point*. Each presentation will be followed by a short question and answer session.

6. Final presentation

Early on in the semester, and in consultation with your instructor, you will be expected to come up with *one research topic or theme* of your choice that you will prepare during the semester and then present before your instructor and classmates at the end of the semester. This presentation should last up to 7 minutes and will be followed by a short question and answer session. You will be asked to aid your presentation with *Power Point*.