SPN 2340 Intermediate Spanish for Native Speakers
SPRING SEMESTER 2015
Tuesdays 9:30 AM -10:45 AM, GC 286

Professor Ana Roca
Department of Modern Languages, Florida International University

Office Hours and Emails:
Before class on Tuesdays & Thursdays, as needed, and by appointment (Cell Phone: TBA; office: 305-348-2851)
FIU offices: Department of Modern Languages, DM 4th Floor, DM484B
roca@fiu.edu

FIU Catalog Course Description/Objectives:
SPN 2340 Intermediate Spanish for Native Speakers (3). Improvement of spelling, grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing and oral skills, for Hispanic bilinguals educated in the U.S., with less than two years of formal training in Spanish but whose mother tongue is Spanish. Pre-requisite: Ability to understand Spanish.

Note: Advanced language students who may have been incorrectly advised or self-advised into this course, may be asked by the instructors, to better serve you, to take a higher level Spanish language course, more appropriate to their more linguistic competencies, linguistic experience (such as living abroad or having completed primary and secondary school in Spanish in a Spanish-speaking country), formal training, or general advanced oral and written abilities in Spanish. Our department offers an array of exciting courses in such areas as Spanish and Spanish American literature, advanced grammar and composition, Spanish, Latin American and US Latino culture, film, Spanish linguistics, and translation and interpretation, etc. This intermediate level class is primarily designed to be pedagogically appropriate for U.S. Hispanic bilingual Latinos whose dominant academic language is English, and who have little or no formal instruction in Spanish, such as classes for heritage speakers of Spanish (also often called “Spanish for Native Speakers” or “Spanish for U.S. Bilinguals”).

A. Required Text and Workbook:
workbook to class.

B Recommended-Only Dictionaries and Reserve Desk Material:
It is strongly recommended that you use bilingual and monolingual dictionaries as reference tools to help you in your work (readings and compositions). Specific recommendations will be given in class. For your use during the course, we will place a reference grammar book in the Reserve Room of the Library. The book, titled *Modern Spanish Syntax: A Study in Contrast* and written by Yolanda and Carlos Solé, will be readily available via the course number, the name of the book, or my name. Please study sections corresponding to the grammatical topics we will be reviewing.

C. Attendance policy:
Attendance is generally **required** in all language classes. If you are sick or must be absent, please get in touch with me and with a classmate as soon as possible. You can always leave me a message. I can be reached at 348-2046 or by e-mail at rocaa@fiu.edu. **Excessive unexcused** (2 to 3 absences can affect your final course grade by at least half a point in the standard scale used (a grade of B would become B-, for example). The more absences, the more points may be taken off. This class meets only twice a week. Attendance and participation in outside-of-class assigned work and activities on and off campus, are essential to help you get the best grade possible.

No grade of Incomplete is normally assigned to a student unless there is medical documentation or a situation or circumstances that warrant assigning such a temporary grade. University policy on this matter is strict. If you have any problems with the class whatsoever, please contact one of your instructors right away before or after class, or contact us by email or telephone. I am very reachable, easy to contact and easy to talk with if you have any concerns. You will also have my cell phone as of the first day of class as well. I welcome interaction, feedback and communication with my students about our class, and I am happy to assist, guide, and help you better understand class material assigned for home study. There are also language lab tutors normally available via the Department of Modern Languages: 305-348-2851, and other university academic services. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE INFORMED OF UNIVERSITY CALENDAR DEADLINES, SUCH AS THE LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE WITH A DR GRADE.

The course incorporates both a traditional descriptive grammar-based selected review (mostly from the workbook and or handouts), as well as a focus on content-based instruction as teaching approaches for language learning (thematic readings, films, class mini lectures or presentations on themes, discussions, debates). You are expected to take notes as best you can, when appropriate, and participate in conversational activities in Spanish, so you can practice the language in the classroom environment. Part of your participation grade takes into consideration the following activities and assignments in Spanish:

1 Oral History Project: As explained, this section of SPN 2340 incorporates outside of class instructional
activities which primarily consist of optional and required lectures, academic panels, and/or content-based service learning assignments, such as: **REQUIRED: The Abuelos Project/assignment**—where students will learn beforehand how to conduct an interview, prepare interview questions, conduct and record an interview, edit and transcribe the interview, and prepare it as a written assignment in the form of an interview with an introduction, or a composition/article about the person interviewed. Students will select a senior citizen (who is a grandparent), which can be their own, a friend’s or from a community center, (for example). Students will later be able to discuss their learning experience doing the interview and comment on or share portions of the interview with the class. More information later on in class.

2. University/Community Participation & Engagement: You are asked to attend at least 2 or 3 academic presentations (and write a one page summary or response) on any topics of interest related to Hispanic cultures and societies. You will find plenty of such opportunities at our own campus, via LACC, CRI, MOL, etc., as well as in our communities (such as at Books and Books, Barnes & Noble, the Coral Gables Museum, activities at local museums, the University of Miami Richter Library, and the Centro Cultural Español-Miami, etc.). Ideally the presentations you should choose should be in Spanish. Further instructions will be explained in class.

3. Films in Spanish & Culture: You will be required to write in Spanish your own analytical and interpretative review and reaction to at least one film (in Spanish) during the term and you can choose this film (2-3 pages typewritten, double-spaced, proofread), or choose one that is among those recommended by your instructor or the text (see a number of suggested films at the end of each of our textbook chapters). Due **Thursday, April 2**.

**D Evaluation and Grading:**

Evaluation of your work and grading will be based on a number of different areas and activities:

1) **20% Consistent readiness completion of regular homework assignments** (such as oral or written responses to questions based on readings), selected workbook exercises, and/or **short quizzes** based on specific homework material assigned for that day (from main text or workbook);

2) **20% Regular class attendance and class participation** in individual or assigned group project or outside-of-class academic activities, or service learning component activities, such as the **Abuelos Project (Required: graded pass/fail)** and selected attendance and participation (with related corresponding) oral or written assignments) in any other lectures recommended, such as sponsored by LACC, CRI, SIPA, or outside FIU, such as at UM (when open to the public) or at Books and Books (sometimes co-sponsored by FIU); reading/writing projects (such as film reviews, library work, individual or/and small group assignments, Internet assignments that can include brief oral presentations).
3.) 60% Three Tests, (both covering selected readings, discussion topics, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, material presented in class, etc.). Test #1 (Feb. 12) covers selected material related to Hispanics in the United States (chapters 1-4); Test#2 (March 12) covers selected material from main text and workbook -- chapter 5 on Spain; and Test #3 (April 6) chapter 6 on the topic of human rights, and selected material from chapter 7. Note that Test#3 will be given on the last day of class. There is no comprehensive final exam. Dates above will be confirmed at least one week in advance in class. Please make a note of important dates here and from the university academic calendar. No make-up exams will be given unless there is a valid excuse that can be documented properly.

Please feel free to contact me by email or at my cell if you have any questions or need assistance at any time during the semester. Your final grade is based on the above.

E. GRADING SCALE

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F. Important Dates: Please check the FIU calendar on the web for last day to drop a course, holidays, etc.

G. E-mail and Web Use Requirement

This section of SPN 2340 can use e-mail and the Internet as a tool in the course. All students are required to have e-mail either through a free FIU account or an account of your choice. The course will use the web as a supplement to themes and topics included in the text and others that might be discussed in class. Students will be expected to be able to do searches, read assigned newspapers and magazines in Spanish, documents on pertinent related topics, and use the Internet to explore current events, cultural and literary topics of interest.

H. Disability Resources. If you have any special learning issues, need particular resources, or have special challenges related to learning in this class, please make sure to contact for a consultation or register, if warranted, with the Office of Disability Services (Disability Resource Center-DRC), at 305348-3532. This office offers guidance and support to students with disabilities to help promote their success in the university. I welcome speaking with you so that I can be of optimal assistance and best understand your challenges and learning needs.
I. Academic Misconduct. Please review FIU’s Code of Academic Integrity in the university Catalog. Behaviors such as cheating, plagiarism, intentionally lying or misrepresenting, academic dishonesty, falsification of records, etc., can result in disciplinary actions that include expulsion, suspension, disciplinary probation, failing or reduction of grade, restriction of university privileges, etc.

J. Common Courtesy: Computers and Telephones in the Classroom. Computers and telephones can be an annoying distraction with negative impact to instruction and learning students are clicking away or having bright screens shine on another student who is trying to concentrate and take notes by hand (which is done quietly). Students are often also tempted to check their mail and look up items on the Internet during class instead of paying attention. For this and many other pedagogical reasons that have been demonstrated by researchers in education, please be considerate to classmates and the instructor and do not use laptops during the class unless instructed to do so in advance. Instead, bring lined paper and a black or blue pen to class, along with your main text and the workbook. Use your laptop outside of class or use it in class only if you are making a presentation and need to use your computer to make a power point presentation, for example. All work to be turned in that is done outside of class, should be turned in typed and always double-spaced on only one side of the sheet. Work done in class by hand should be written in black or blue ink. No pencils, please. Thank you for your cooperation.

Note: Scheduled selected readings, will be distributed to the class as separate handouts and/or always announced on the board in advance. Please copy down homework assignments on the board.