Course Description

This course provides intense conversational practice in the context of a panoramic approach to current social, psychological, political, bioethical, philosophical, and linguistic issues. Classes are conducted totally in Spanish and they involve discussions, debates, oral presentations (individual and small groups), film presentation and discussion, and a semester project.

Course Objectives

1. To improve the abilities and strategies needed to use Spanish in a variety of contexts and registers, from informal, colloquial, conversations to formal discussions on diverse topics.

2. To converse in clearly participatory fashion and gain confidence in handling a variety of communicative tasks in Spanish such as elaborating, explaining in detail, hypothesizing, synthesizing, and summarizing.

3. To develop an ability to distinguish main ideas from supporting information, facts and evidence from opinions, both in written texts and oral speech.

4. To improve understanding of texts which are conceptually abstract or treat unfamiliar topics and situations.

5. To strengthen Spanish grammar skills, including the ability to use a wider variety of syntactical structures.

6. To acquire a broader vocabulary and become familiar with a variety of dialectical variants of Spanish.

7. To integrate language and culture in the context of oral and written assignments.
Textbook


Recommended

- A Spanish Grammar and a Spanish dictionary are highly recommended. A Spanish/English dictionary is also recommended.
  5. Diccionarios: Diccionario Clave, Diccionario de la Real Academia de la Lengua Española, Diccionario María Moliner, etc.

Classroom etiquette

Because this is a conversational class, **perfect attendance and punctuality are essential.** You are expected to be in class and to be prepared for class. Please do not hold conversations with classmates whenever the instructor or another student is speaking. Also refrain from participating in any other distractive behavior. Cell phone off, please. Laptops or tablets permitted AS LONG AS YOU USE THEM FOR CLASS PURPOSES ONLY. No tape recorders IPads, Blackberries or any other electronic device allowed in class. **NO TEXT MESSAGES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.** Your undivided attention in class is a must. An atmosphere of mutual respect is in order. Be on time and remain for the entire class. Any lateness of 10 minutes or more will be considered as ½ absence. Excessive class absences (2 or more) can and will affect your final grade. Arriving late or leaving early is a distraction to your classmates who are trying to listen to a lecture or participate in a discussion. If you must be absent one day, you are still responsible for any written or oral assignment given for the next class session. Please get to know a couple of reliable classmates who will let you know **exactly** what you missed and what is expected from you. Please do not ask for make-up tests: they will not be given. Expect to get from this class what you give to it, so be here, prepared, be awake, and expect to be challenged: “Adelante con coraje”.

Requirements and method of evaluation

I. Preparation and participation

- Satisfactory preparation will involve: careful study of the assigned materials, reflection on whatever topics or questions may be given in preparation for next class discussion; thorough, timely completion of assignments. No late ones, please.

- Satisfactory participation will require active involvement in the discussions and all other class activities. Students are expected to express their views about the topics and readings; demonstrate their familiarity with the texts, terms, and concepts being discussed; volunteer to respond to questions; ask relevant questions; speak Spanish at all times.

II. Evaluation.

You will have 2 oral tests (about 5-7 minutes each), one after at least two topics of discussion. Each of these tests will be analyzed and evaluated based on a number of aspects: comprehensibility, amount of communication, quality of communication and fluency (see rubrics). There will be a number of vocabulary and grammar quizzes during the course based on the readings assigned for discussion and class topics.

One group presentation will be required. Each student in the group will offer a presentation of about 3-4 minutes on a topic proposed by the group and approved by the professor. Presentations have to discuss the topic in question and analyze different points of view on it. At the end, the presenters should interact with the audience (questions and answers) to explain their point of view. The date will be assigned by the professor.

There will be a Final Project during the course. It will be done individually or in groups (2 students per group) during the last week of the semester. Each student or group will select their own topic and type of project preferably based on issues and topics discussed in class. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Evaluations will be based on subject knowledge; creativity and originality; thoroughness; organization; critical/analytical skills; pronunciation and fluency; vocabulary, syntax, grammar accuracy; and delivery (eye contact, movement, voice, fluency (see rubrics). Instructor will explain in class the project during the first class meeting.

Grade distribution.
Daily preparation and active participation (attendance* included)………………... 25%
Oral tests……………………………………………………………………………… 40%
Vocabulary and grammar quizzes………………………………………………… 10%
Final project……………………………………………………………………………..25%
Attendance:

Discussion and practices will take place in class. Therefore, the attendance is **MANDATORY**. Since this is a Summer course absence to any of the two parts of any class session will be considered an **unexcused absence** unless you have the permission of the instructor. **TARDINESS (10 minutes or more)** without a valid reason will be considered as ½ absence. Any **unexcused absence** will affect your final grade.

Grading scale

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<td>100-93</td>
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<td>92-90</td>
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**SUGGESTIOND FOR SUCCESS AND OTHER ITEMS:**

1. **Start** working on the first day of class and keep working daily throughout the semester. If you are sick or must be absent for valid reasons please get in touch with a classmate or with me as soon as possible. Every student must obtain the telephone number or email of a classmate in case of an absence in order to inquire about the missing class. If you are absent that does not excuse you from fulfilling all assignments scheduled during the class or as homework. **NO MAKE UPS OF TESTS OR QUIZZES. NO PRESENTATION RESCHEDULING WITHOUT A VALID REASON AND INSTRUCTOR’S APPROVAL.**

2. **Homework:** Carefully study the materials assigned; take notes as you read; write down comments, ideas and questions in preparation for the upcoming class; read newspapers, search the Web for expansion on the issues. More of this during class.

3. **In class:** Always be there in body, mind, and soul, fully awake, fresh and ready; get involved in all class activities; show your preparation by making meaningful, relevant contributions to the discussions; volunteer to respond questions; bring materials and ideas to class to share; be critical, analytical, point at contradictions and ambiguities in the texts and/or in other students’ arguments; do not wait until you have the perfect answer to participate in class. **ALWAYS speak Spanish!**

4. **Give yourself** plenty of time to work on your Final Project. To do well in this assignment you will need to do quite a bit of reading, write drafts, rehearse, reflect on the issues, revise your grammar, perfect your style, polish you pronunciation – all of which requires time, patience, and determination.

5. **As a warm-up** exercise in small groups (whenever time allows), each student is to bring to each class meeting, a printed copy or the original copy of an interesting news item or article on a current event or an article of cultural interest from that week, taken from a Spanish-speaking newspaper from Spain, Latin America or the United States. Students will converse in small groups about whatever newspaper article they read and have brought to share. Later some of these will be presented to the class-at large and commented on, debated, etc.
6. *If you have* any problems or questions please do not hesitate to speak with me; do not wait until the end of the semester.

**JUNE 8 (Monday)**

Deadline to drop a course with a grade of DR.

**Office hours (DM 495 E)**

Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Grade of Incomplete**

As a general rule no **IN grade will be given**; the professor, at his discretion, and with adequate proof will consider **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**.

**Observation**

Our course program is **TENTATIVE** and not written on stone. It may be adapted according to our progress in the course.

**Courtesy Reminder**

Please be considerate of your classmates. Try not to arrive late, or have extended private conversations that interfere with instructional activities. Turn off your cell phone. Turn off all electronic devices (except laptops or tablets **IF USE FOR CLASS PURPOSES ONLY**). **NO TEXT MESSAGES. CONVERSE IN SPANISH AT ALL TIMES.**

**Disability Resources**

If you have any special learning issues, need particular resources, or have special challenges related to learning in this class, please let me know and make sure to contact for a consultation or register, if warranted, with the Office of Disability Services (Disability Resource Center-DRC), at 305-348-3532. The office offers guidance and support to students with disabilities to help promote their success in the university. These must be made prior to the beginning of each semester and current documentation of disability is required to receive services. Location: Graham Center 190, MM Campus, 305-348-3532. If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**IMPORTANT DATES SUMMER A, 2015**

May 10 (Sunday): last day to register without incurring a $100 late fee.
May 18 (Monday): last day to add or drop courses.
May 22 (Friday): last day to apply for graduation at the end of Summer 2015 term.
May 25 (Monday): Memorial Day Holiday.
June 8 (Monday): last day to drop a course with a DR grade.
June 16 (Tuesday) and June 18 (Thursday): **FINAL PROJECTS PRESENTATION**.
June 19 (Friday): classes end.
June 23 (Tuesday): grade report for Summer Term A available to students by web.
FIU CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Addendum: Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchanges of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. The Academic Integrity Pledges states:

As a student of this university:

- I will be honest in my academic endeavors.
- I will not represent someone else’s work as my own.
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another’s cheating.

All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Welcome to the course and good luck!
SPN 3401 - Advanced Spanish Conversation.
Semestre de verano A, 2015
Martes y jueves: 10:50 am – 2:10pm
CP103
Prof. A. Baldor

CALENDARIO TENTATIVO
(Este programa del curso está SUJETO A REVISIÓN según nuestro progreso en el curso)

SEMANA 1 (Martes, 12 de mayo; jueves, 14 de mayo)

Introducción al curso: programa a seguir. Temas de discusión.

TEMA: **El año 2100**

- Opiniones personales sobre el tema antes de leer los artículos. Opiniones de la gente de la calle.

- Lecturas: “El nuevo mundo de la electrónica y la tecnología”.

  “Perspectiva optimista”.

  “Perspectiva pesimista”.

- Discusión: aspectos relacionados con la lectura.

- Vocabulario (p.5) (p.14)

- Repaso gramatical.

- Ejercicios de vocabulario (pp.17-18)

TEMA: **El matrimonio nuevo**

- Opiniones de la gente de la calle – Opiniones personales

- Lecturas: “Los casamientos y el matrimonio”

  “El matrimonio tradicional y natural”

  “El matrimonio nuevo”

- Discusión: aspectos relacionados con la lectura

- Vocabulario (p.23)

- Repaso gramatical

- Ejercicios de vocabulario (p.26)
SEMANA 2 (Martes, 19 de mayo; jueves, 21 de mayo)

**TEMA: El terrorismo**

- Opiniones de la gente de la calle – Opiniones personales

- Lecturas: “El terrorismo”
  
  “Terrorista/asesino”

  “Héroe/mártir”

- Discusión: aspectos relacionados con la lectura

- Vocabulario (p.40)

**TEMA: La popularidad: hombres y mujeres**

- Opiniones de la gente de la calle – Opiniones personales

- Lecturas: “La popularidad”
  
  “La batalla de los sexos”

  “El hombre es superior”

  “La mujer es superior”

- Discusión: aspectos relacionados con la lectura

- Vocabulario (p.32)

- Repaso gramatical

- Ejercicios de vocabulario (pp. 34-35)

SEMANA 3 (Martes, 26 de mayo; jueves, 28 de mayo)

**TEMA: La eutanasia**

- Opiniones de la gente de la calle- Opiniones personales

- Lecturas: “Justificación o no de la eutanasia: la esperanza de vida”
  
  “Sería un homicidio”

  “Sería un acto de bondad”

- Discusión: aspectos relacionados con la lectura
- Vocabulario (p.71)
- Repaso gramatical
- Ejercicios de vocabulario (pp.73-74)

Película: “Mar adentro” (Alejandro Amenábar) – 125 minutos - Discusión

SEMANA 4 (Martes, 2 de junio; jueves, 4 de junio)

TEMA: La migración

- Opiniones de la gente de la calle - Opiniones personales
- Lecturas: “La Migración”
  - “La inmigración beneficia”
  - “La inmigración es negativa y perturbadora”
- Discusión: aspectos relacionados con la lectura

- Vocabulario (p.79)

Lunes, 8 de junio: último día para darse de baja del curso con una nota de DR.

Película: “El Norte” (Gregory Nava) – 139 minutos - Discusión

SEMANA 5 (Martes, 9 de junio; jueves, 11 de junio)

TEMA: “Hombres armados” (John Sayles) (EE.UU) – 128 minutos - Discusión

NOTA(*): En preparación para este tema será necesario investigar adecuadamente los conceptos de “la Guerra Sucia”, “La Alianza para el Progreso” y el de “Teología de la liberación”.

SEMANA 6 (Martes 16 de junio; jueves 18 de junio)

Presentación de proyectos semestrales (Ver “Rubrics for the Assessment of Oral Communication”).
NOTA(**): Este programa de curso es tentativo y sujeto a revisión según nuestro progreso en el curso. Los exámenes orales, ejercicios gramaticales y de vocabulario, serán anunciados con antelación por el profesor.

FECHAS IMPORTANTES:

21 de mayo (jueves). Informar al profesor por escrito del tema escogido para el proyecto final.

22 de mayo (viernes). Fecha límite para solicitar graduación al final del semestre de verano de 2015.


4 de junio (jueves). Presentar por escrito la síntesis del proyecto final.

8 de junio (lunes). Fecha límite para darse de baja del curso con una calificación de DR.

16 y 18 de junio (martes y jueves). Presentación de los informes finales del curso.

23 de junio (martes). Notas finales del curso disponibles a través de la internet.

TENTATIVO:

Según el tiempo disponible una tercera película deberá ser vista por todos los estudiantes.

Posibles títulos: María llena eres de gracia, La historia oficial o Cautiva, Salvador, Romero, Spanglish, Greater Glory, El laberinto del fauno. Cada grupo recibirá la asignación de una película para ser discutida entre los miembros del grupo y el resto de la clase.