SPANISH 3A, GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION - Fall 2012

Instructor: Thania Muñoz        Office Hours: Mon / Thurs: 10:00am

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Course Description:

This course focuses on intermediate to advanced grammar and composition in an orderly fashion. Emphasis is placed on key elements of grammar, to constitute about 70% of the course, and composition writing, to constitute about 30% of the workload.

The SPAN 3 Series is designed to first solidify students' basic knowledge of grammar (acquired in the Spanish 1 and 2 Series) and to then broaden their grammar skills through a variety of exercises that involve creativity, completion, substitution, and matching. By the end of the SPAN 3 Series, students can be expected to write compositions with increased grammatical accuracy and good control of sentence structure as well as a sense of paragraph coherence and text organization. This course will concentrate on the everyday usage of educated Spanish rather than the more formal, literary Spanish.

The prerequisite for SPAN 3A/B is SPAN 2C or SPAN 2NS, with a "C" or above. SPAN 3A may be taken concurrently with SPAN 3B. The satisfactory completion of SPAN 3A AND 3B, however, is a prerequisite for all other upper-division Spanish courses, including for SPAN 15.

Textbooks:


3. A good Spanish/English dictionary / recommended


Text Material Covered in SPAN 3A:

Chapters 1 through 8 (Chapters 9-14 will be covered in 3B)

Number of Class Periods: 38-40 (depending on quarter)

Class Dynamics:

This course offers a relaxed atmosphere where students can use their Spanish without fear of criticism and perfect their basic knowledge of Spanish grammar and composition. Try, however, not to get as comfortable with the class so as to not study enough; some anxiety about academic performance is always helpful. On the
other hand, avoid getting so tense that you "freeze up". Students should avoid monopolizing the class, as this may create an uncomfortable atmosphere for fellow students. Remember that your instructor is always available during office hours to help you.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

The University is an institution of learning, research, and scholarship predicated on the existence of an environment of honesty and integrity. As members of the academic community, faculty, students, and administrative officials share responsibility for maintaining this environment. It is essential that all members of the academic community subscribe to the ideal of academic honesty and integrity and accept individual responsibility for their work. **Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.** Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the University's educational, research, and social roles. They devalue the learning experience and its legitimacy not only for the perpetrators but for the entire community.

Note: Any incident involving cheating, plagiarism, etc. will effect your course grade and will be reported to both the instructor's as well as to the student's Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

For more information, please go to: [http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm](http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm).

**Workload:**

Students with a large course- or workload and students with weak studying skills/habits are discouraged from taking this class. **Each class will require approximately two hours a day of careful and systematic studying.** You are strongly advised to evaluate your particular situation carefully before deciding to stay in the class.

**Add/Drop Policy:**

The School of Humanities follows the university's deadlines on adding and dropping courses. A student may drop a course only during the first two weeks of the quarter and may add a course only during the first three weeks. Students are responsible for making sure they meet all deadlines. An exception to these policies may be requested only for extenuating and documented circumstances outside the student's control.


**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is mandatory. Regular class attendance is expected and essential for successful completion of the course. You are allowed only one absence ("freebee") per quarter. For each absence beyond that one, your course grade will be lowered by 1.0 percent. I will count three "tardies" (ten minutes late) as one absence.

**Participation Policy:**
In order to participate you must be present. Roll will be taken every day. Class participation includes your contribution, in Spanish. This applies to regular class, as well as to small-group activities. You are expected to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary and grammar points at home so that the limited classtime can be spent on practicing and reinforcing the language, rather than mere lecturing.

**Written and Oral Assignments:**

These assignments are part of the course, and consist of material(s) assigned to be completed outside of the classroom, such as Nulu, the workbook, exercises from the book, as well as any other activity assigned by the instructor. Homework will be checked in class, and collected at random. If you miss a day, you are expected to get the information from a classmate and turn in the homework for the missed day on the next day you attend. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

Classmate 1: Name _____________  E-Mail __________________________

Classmate 2: Name _____________  E-Mail __________________________

*[You are expected to check your e-mail daily!]*

**Written Expression:** You will write one 250-word In-Class composition (ICC), and two At-Home compositions (AHC) which will be turned on the assigned date in the course calendar. You will need to print out a copy of the agreement and give it to your TA before the end of the first week of class. The first composition will be of approximately 350 words, and the second of at least 600 words on topics to be assigned. Multiple drafts may be required. The due date for the first-draft versions of the AHCs is indicated on the Day-by-Day program. The process of writing these compositions will be explained in detail at the appropriate time(s) during the quarter.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

There will be three unit tests and five quizzes. The tests will assess vocabulary, and especially grammar, introduced in the respective chapters. There are NO MAKE-UPS for tests or quizzes. Quizzes are typically brief, and are designed to check whether you have completed the homework assigned for a given day. If a quiz is missed due to a documented police, court or medical emergency of your own, the next test or quiz will count double; permission to make-up the last test, quiz, or composition is given solely at the discretion of the instructor. Quizzes may be given at any time and may cover any area covered or assigned for that day.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will be cumulative, with a special emphasis placed on the two most recent chapters. It will also reflect most of the skills and tasks practiced during the quarter. The Final will be on **the date and time indicated in the official Finals schedule. It is your responsibility** to resolve any scheduling conflicts you may have due to work, other exams, etc., **before** that date.
Grading Policy:

Your COURSE GRADE will be weighted in the following way:

- Tests (3) 30%
- Quizzes (5) * 20%
- In-Class Composition 10%
- At-Home Compositions (2) 20%
- Final Exam 20%

* the lowest grade will be dropped

Course Grades will be given on this straight percentage scale:

- A+ = 100.0 - 97
- A = 96.99 - 93
- A- = 92.99 - 90
- B+ = 89.99 - 87
- B = 86.99 - 83
- B- = 82.99 - 80
- C+ = 79.99 - 77
- C = 76.99 - 73
- C- = 72.99 - 70
- D+ = 69.99 - 67
- D = 66.99 - 63
- D- = 62.99 - 60
- F = 59.99 - 0

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Students with registered disabilities who may need special accommodations are asked to make an appointment to see the instructor.