

Tennessee Tech University
Department of Foreign Languages
Spring 2021 (MWF)
Written Communication in Spanish
SPAN 3010.001 (1/19/21-5/6/21) MWF 8:00-8:55 a.m. OKLY 219 (3crs)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Mark Groundland

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Office Hours: MWF 10-11 a.m., or by appointment

[Students may meet with me on Zoom upon request.]

Covid-19 University / DFL Restrictions and Guidelines

Due to the pandemic, the university has mandated the following requirements in order for students to receive in-class instruction:

1. Students must wear face coverings in Oakley Hall, which means that students must wear them in class. Any student not wearing an appropriate face covering will be required to leave class.
2. Students must maintain 6 feet of distance from others at all times in class and in the hallway.
3. Attendance will not factor into your final course grade. Instead, you will be evaluated according to the level of meaningful engagement you exhibit in the course.
4. Tech has reduced the capacity of classroom occupancy to 50%, which means only 16 students may be present in the classroom at any time.
5. Once the class is over, leave in an orderly fashion and do NOT linger in the hallway. If you have a question and there is not time to answer questions at the end of class, please e-mail me your question or concern.
6. Students must always walk on the right-hand side of hallways to maintain social distancing.
7. Although students are allowed access to Oakley Hall's Euro-Café (OKLY 217), the room's capacity is severely limited. Therefore, it is requested that students arrive as close to the beginning of class as possible to avoid lingering within the building as they wait for their courses to begin.

8. A student displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 is expected to self-quarantine immediately, in an off-campus residence if possible, and call Health Services at 931-372-3320 to arrange for medical care and/or COVID-19 testing or to seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing off campus.
9. A student awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test will be required to self-quarantine, in an off-campus residence if possible, until the results are reported.
10. Students who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in quarantine, in an off-campus residence if possible, until Health Services releases the student to return to class.
11. Students will direct all requests for excuses for class absences related to COVID-19, regardless of where the COVID-19 testing is performed, to Health Services.
12. Based on Health Services' recommendations, Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence. No health related information may be released in this notice.

Course Information

Prerequisites

SPAN 2020 or permission from instructor.

Required Texts

- Cañón, Paula. *Taller de escritores. Grammar and Composition for Advanced Spanish*. 3rd ed. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2021.

Also Required

- Composition notebook for weekly writing assignments.
- Regular notebook for note-taking and in-class exercises.

Highly Recommended Resource

- Dozier, Eleanor and Zulma Iguina. *Manual de gramática: Grammar Reference for Students of Spanish*. 6th ed. Boston: Cengage Learning. 2017.
- Spanish / English dictionary

Course description

SPAN 3010—Written Communication in Spanish I (Lec. 3. Credit 3.)

Grammatical expansion and analysis, study of idiomatic expressions, and composition. Required for majors. Foreign language majors must pass this course with a C or better in order to continue to the next course in the sequence.

Student Learning Outcomes

The overall objective of this course is to develop effective tools for writing clearly in Spanish. Students will review and build upon complex grammar structures and use them correctly in different writing styles.

Upon completion of this course, students will

- Know that writing effectively is a process done in stages (brainstorming, dictionary usage, outlining, writing, editing, revising)
Communication: Interpersonal (Write)
- Review and refine Spanish grammar structures as they apply to different types of writing (descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive)
Communication: Interpersonal (Write)
- Improve the expression of ideas through writing (directly and indirectly, objectively and subjectively)
Communication: Interpersonal (Write)
Communication: Presentational (Write)
- Develop critical thinking skills and express ideas clearly through writing
Communication: Interpersonal (Write)
Communication: Presentational (Write)
- Refine their reading skills and appreciate native texts and their use of style and grammar to express ideas
Cultures: Relating Cultural Practice to Perspectives (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)
Cultures: Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)

Methodology

The best way to improve writing is to write. This course uses the communicative approach to improve writing skills. Students are responsible for reviewing grammar and stylistic explanations at home and will use these tools in class to write effectively in different registers and writing styles. Students will work in groups to peer edit their writing and learn from mistakes. This is part of the writing process and learning process.

- Students may use a dictionary when composing compositions in class. The use of technology will be limited.

Topics

A detailed listing of topics covered can be found in the Schedule of Assignments.

Evaluation

The following grade criteria will be used to determine the final grades for this course:

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 59 and below

GRADING BREAKDOWN: The course grade will be determined as follows:

Composiciones (6): 60%

Participación en clase (6): 18%

Tarea/Pruebas: 13%

Diario: 9%

Compositions

Students will prepare six (6) compositions according to the assignment schedule. Student will compose a rough draft in class without any technology. They will then edit the draft according to the feedback (symbol system) and submit a typed and double-spaced final draft prepared outside of class. If any form of plagiarism is detected (see plagiarism statement), the student will receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Students must submit their own work.

Participation

Each student is expected to participate actively in each class. Participation is evaluated on a daily basis and this grade, there are six (6), will be calculated after each chapter. See explanation sheet on grading participation. While there is no absentee policy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unexcused absences WILL factor into the participation grade. Therefore, it is imperative that students communicate with the professor in a timely manner about their absences.

Homework/Quizzes

Frequent quizzes will be given on grammar / vocabulary topics studied at home.

Your instructor will assign homework almost daily. It is essential that students review, correct, and understand their mistakes; this process is an essential one when learning any subject. Students must complete the exercises in a timely manner, according to the attached class calendar.

Diario

Students will receive a weekly topic about which they will compose 1-2 pages in their composition notebooks. Students will not have the opportunity to revise these weekly assignments. Furthermore, no late work will be accepted if no legitimate excuse is provided.

University Plagiarism Policy

“Plagiarism. When you use (for example, quote or even summarize or paraphrase) someone else’s media, words, data, ideas, or other works, you must cite your source. You should be especially careful to avoid plagiarizing Internet sources (for example, e-mail, chat rooms, Web sites, or discussion groups). It does not matter whether you borrow material from print sources, from the Internet, from on-line data bases, or from interviews. Failure to cite your source is plagiarism. Students who plagiarize may receive an “F” or a “0” for the assignment, or an “F” for the course” (*TTU Student Handbook*)

Furthermore, the instructor will know the writing proficiency of his students. He will not grade assignments that are obviously someone else's work.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in this course. While the absentee policy has been suspended this semester due to the COVID pandemic, it is still extremely important to attend class and complete your online assignments in a timely manner. Students will be successful if they regularly come prepared to class. The opposite is also true...

ALL unexcused absences will count as a zero (0) for the day's participation grade.

An excused absence is one that occurs due to illness, injury, or death in the student's immediate family. The student must verify these circumstances with official letters as soon as they return to class. No excuses will be accepted one week after the circumstance occurred.

Please note: If you are participating in any university-sponsored event in which you must be absent from class, an official letter from a Tech faculty or staff member must list these dates and be presented to the professor at the beginning of the semester.

Course Requirements

A serious commitment to the study of Spanish is expected from each student. Students must promptly complete assignments BEFORE class. Punctuality and speaking Spanish in class are expected and required.

Please note that the classes are conducted in Spanish.

Student Conduct

The Department of Foreign Languages aims to provide an optimum learning environment in its classes. Students must also be responsible to meet this end. Therefore, we require that:

- All cellular phones be turned off during class,
- Students be respectful of the professor and their fellow students,
- And, finally, students must arrive on time and leave at the end of the class.

Any deviations from these minimum expectations will result in the lowering of your class participation grade, and, if irresponsible behavior should continue, your final grade may be affected.

Make-up Policy

Students cannot make up any work missed, except for major compositions. 5 points will be deducted from the students' composition grade for each day missed. If students miss a class with a legitimate excuse (see attendance), then the assignment will not count for or against them.

Disability Accommodation

“Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). An Academic Adjustment form should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The ODS is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 372-6119.”