

Tennessee Tech University
Department of Foreign Languages
 Spring 2020

Written Communication in Spanish
SPAN 3010.001 (1/21/20-5/7/20) TR 9:30-10:50 a.m. OKLY 212 (3crs)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Mark Groundland

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Office Hours: MW 7:30-9:00 a.m., TR 1:30-2:30 p.m., or by appointment

Course Information

Prerequisites

SPAN 2020 or permission from instructor.

Required Texts

- Bleichmar, Guillermo and Paula Cañón. *Taller de escritores. Grammar and Composition for Advanced Spanish*. 2nd ed. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2016.
- Online Supersite account that accompanies Taller (2nd edition). The passcodes are included if you buy the text NEW.

Also Required

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

Highly Recommended Resource

- 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 and learning processes.

- 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 (5): 50%

Participación en clase (2): 20%

Pruebas: 12%

Tarea: 9%

Diario: 9%

Compositions

Students will prepare five (5) 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 two (2), will be calculated at the middle and end of the semester. See explanation sheet on grading participation.

Quizzes

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

Homework

Your instructor will assign homework almost daily from the online Supersite system. 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.

It is best NOT to use Explorer, but rather Mozilla or another search engine.

Students will receive a grade for the effort put forth for the assignments in each chapter. They will receive full credit when scoring a 60 or above in each exercise.

Diario

Students will receive a weekly topic about which they will compose 1-2 pages in their composition notebooks. The instructor will collect the composition notebooks randomly in class according to the course schedule. Students will not have the opportunity to revise these weekly assignments; hence, it is essential they check their work before submitting it. The instructor will indicate grammatical errors with a yellow highlighter and vocabulary errors in orange. 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. The student is allowed three (3) absences, whether they are excused or unexcused. After the third absence, one point will be deducted from the student's final grade for each subsequent UNEXCUSED absence. Excessive tardiness will count as an unexcused absence.

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.”