

## SPAN 3020 – ORAL COMMUNICATION IN SPANISH

Course: SPAN 3020  
Section: 001  
Semester: Fall 2020  
Meeting days: MW  
Time: 11:15 AM - 12:05 PM  
Room: Oakley Hall 219

Instructor: Manuel J. Villalba  
Preferred method to contact instructor: e-mail  
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### DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Oral presentations, discussions, cultural readings, and conversation in Spanish. Prerequisite: SPAN 2020 or equivalent. Required for majors. Not open to native speakers of Spanish. (See instructor for a course substitution.) This is a web-enhanced course.

The goal of SPAN 3020 is to strengthen your Spanish communication skills by (1) providing a place for regular guided oral practice of basic grammatical and conversational patterns and vocabulary through topics of current interest, (2) increasing your confidence to use Spanish inside and outside the classroom, especially with native speakers, (3) helping you add to your active vocabulary, reinforcing it with readings and selected written exercises, and (4) helping you improve listening comprehension (live speech, short videos, movie) and speaking ability (oral exams, pair/group work in class, native speaker conversation project).

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Participate actively in conversations in most informal and some formal settings on topics of personal and public interest

**Communication: Interpersonal & Interpretative (Speak, Listen)**

- Narrate and describe in major verb tenses with some control of aspect

**Communication: Interpersonal & Presentational (Speak)**

- Assert opinions on topics of current relevance in modern society

**Communication: Interpersonal, Interpretative & Presentational (Speak)**

**Cultures: Relating Cultural Practice and Products to Perspectives (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)**

**Connections: Making Connections & Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives (Critical Thinking, Solve Problems, Access Evaluate Diverse Perspectives)**

- Deal effectively with unanticipated complications through a variety of communicative and coping devices

**Communication: Interpersonal, Interpretative & Presentational (Speak, Listen, Use Media)**

- Sustain communication by using, with suitable accuracy and confidence, connected discourse of paragraph length

**Communication: Interpersonal, Interpretative & Presentational (Speak, Listen)**

- Demonstrate confidence in initiating and sustaining conversations in Spanish, regardless of the interlocutor's identity

**Communication: Interpersonal, Interpretative & Presentational (Speak)**

**Comparisons: Language Comparisons & Cultural Comparisons (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)**

**Communities: School and Global Communities & Lifelong Learning (Use the Language within and beyond the Classroom)**

## METHODOLOGY

Class time is mainly for directed oral practice; students must prepare thoroughly outside class by reading assigned pages from the book, looking up unfamiliar words, marking passages that present difficulties (in order to ask the instructor for clarification), becoming familiar with the new vocabulary, and engaging classmates and others in conversations in Spanish outside of class. By doing this students prepare themselves to use their new vocabulary appropriately during oral work in class. The instructor will assess preparation and participation with oral exams, quizzes, and written exercises.

Classes will be conducted entirely in the target language, Spanish, and although sometimes it may be frustrating, the more you are exposed to the target language, the more you will understand it. Remember that it is assumed that you will not understand or be able to respond to everything that the instructor says. You must be patient with yourself and try to capture as much as possible and communicate as much as possible. This is a Spanish language course. The professor and the students will speak only Spanish in class.

## MATERIALS

### Required text and materials

- **Revista: Conversación sin barreras.** (5th Ed.) José A. Blanco. (Vista Higher Learning, 2018).
- Textbook website: [revista.vhlcentral.com](http://revista.vhlcentral.com) (password comes with purchase of textbook or can be bought separately). If you buy the text USED, your passcodes for textbook website are sold separately in the bookstore. You may also purchase the passcodes online by going to <http://vistahigherlearning.com/store/tntech.htm/>.
- **TalkAbroad:** All students will need to open an account on this conversation platform: <https://talkabroad.com>.

### Recommended texts

- *The Oxford Spanish Dictionary (Spanish-English/English Spanish)*, eds. Beatriz Galimberti Jarman – Roy Russell. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- *WordReference.com (English-Spanish Dictionary)* On-line source:  
<http://www.wordreference.com/es/translation.asp>

## iLearn

Our section has a shell on iLearn that will be updated regularly with announcements, handouts for students to print out and other useful information. Students will be responsible for checking this site at least once in between class sessions.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### **Oral Exams (40%) [20% + 20%]**

In pairs, students will complete two 15 minutes conversations about topics covered in class. Each conversation must be entirely in Spanish and turned in as indicated in the syllabus. More details about this exam will be given in class.

### **Conversation with Spanish Speaker (15%) [Recorded conversation 10%, Transcription 5%]**

Each student will be required to record a 30 minute **conversation with a native Spanish speaker**, in Spanish, using previously prepared questions relative to a topic discussed in class or one of the student's choice to be cleared with the instructor beforehand. Students must turn in the audio-recorded conversation in a CD or an USB flash drive. Any unintelligible recordings will receive a '0' so please be sure to check the recording level on your recorder early in the conversation. You will be responsible for finding a native speaker, preferably monolingual, with whom to converse. The instructor will provide some resources for finding native Spanish speakers within the university community if you can't find a conversation partner on your own. Your performance in engaging the person in conversation, asking appropriate questions, understanding their speech, and using appropriate grammar and vocabulary will be assessed. A detailed grading rubric will be handed out later in the semester. **THIS IS A CONVERSATION NOT AN INTERVIEW** so although you will have prepared questions beforehand to guide the conversation, you need to do more than just ask questions. You need to participate and be prepared to answer your own questions and contribute significantly to the conversation.

Attached to the conversation recording, each student must submit the beginning of the conversation transcribed (from oral Spanish to written Spanish). The **transcription** will be a minimum of three pages (double space). This document must present the first part of the conversation transcribed "word by word". Omitting or rephrasing the original conversation will result in a lower grade. The transcription must be presented in double space and follow the rules of the MLA style.

### **TalkAbroad Conversations (10%)**

During the semester, as indicated in the course calendar, each student will need to have 6 conversations with 6 different native speakers. Each conversation must be 30 minutes minimum and must be recorded in video and submitted to the instructor for evaluation. It is the responsibility of the student to record the video and to submit it on time. The students can find further information in the TalkAbroad Student Instruction Manual.

*TalkAbroad* completes a thorough screening of the native speakers that work for them, but, for safety purposes, you are required to follow these policies:

1. If your assigned partner makes you feel uncomfortable in any sense, please stop the communication and report it to your instructor as soon as possible.
2. No exchange of money or goods with your partners is allowed.
3. Under no circumstance should you send any personal information to your partners: address, bank account number, credit card number, day of birth, email address, passwords of any kind, phone number, social network nickname, social security number, etc.

### **Presentation (5%)**

Each student will be required to teach the rest of the class how to do something, whether it be how to dance, how to make Valentine cards, how to improve their sleep, how to make a certain type of food, how to make a wallet out of duck tape, etc. This topic needs to be an interesting and engaging one cleared by the instructor before the day of the presentation. Each student will have approximately **15 minutes (20 minutes max.)** including a couple minutes for questions from classmates at the end. Visual aids may be and should be used as long as there is no text on them to read from and only 1 3"X5" note card per presenter with bulleted points may be used to help keep presenters on track and to avoid memorization. **No direct reading** from the note card is allowed and if it takes place will result in a drastic reduction of the grade.

### **Friday conversations (10%)**

Every Friday, students will submit a 15 minute recorded conversation developing a situation proposed by the instructor. Each conversation must be conducted entirely in Spanish.

### **Homework (15%)**

Homework assignments or web-based assignments are to be ready **BEFORE** class. You need to have homework or any other written or web-based work ready to be turned in at the beginning of the class period. DO NOT work on or finish homework during class. Your instructor will advise you regarding exactly what to turn in for homework on a daily or weekly basis as the semester progresses as well as other written work he/she deems necessary to help supplement oral work.

### **Participation (5%)**

Active, scholarly participation is mandatory in this class. All students are expected to participate in every class meeting by responding to questions from the instructor and fellow students as well as by commenting on the readings and assignments due in each particular session. No outstanding grade can be obtained in this class without constant, proactive, responsible, and scholarly participation. Points will be taken off the students' participation grades each time that the instructor notices a lack of preparation in the student or when s/he should fail to bring to class the materials required. **This is a conversation course, and if you are not willing to talk in Spanish in this class, you are in the wrong course.**

Two participation grades will be given to students during the semester. These grades evaluate how well students come to class prepared to engage in class and group discussion, as well as activities.

### **Attendance**

Due to the special circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, **attendance in this class is not mandatory.**

### **FINAL GRADE**

- Mid-term Oral Exam: 20%
- Final Oral Exam: 20%
- Conversation with Spanish Speaker: 15%
- *TalkAbroad* Conversations: 10%
- Presentation: 5%
- Friday's Conversation: 10%
- Homework/Written Work: 15%
- Class Participation: 5%

**§ Grade scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59.**

**CALENDAR**

<b>Fecha</b>	<b>Tema(s) a discutir en clase</b>	<b>Tarea para la próxima clase</b>
<b>Clase 1:</b> Lunes, 24 de agosto	<b>Presentación del instructor e introducción al curso</b>	
<b>Clase 2:</b> Miércoles, 26 de agosto	<b>Lección 1 - ¿Realidad o fantasía?</b> Cortometraje: "Viaje a Marte," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 4-9	
Viernes, 28 de agosto	<b>Conversación 1 – Viaje a Marte</b>	
<b>Clase 3:</b> Lunes, 31 de agosto	Estructuras, <i>Revista</i> : pp. 11-13 Ensayo: "Celebración de la fantasía," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 14-17	
<b>Clase 4:</b> Miércoles, 2 de septiembre	Cuento: "El otro círculo," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 18-24 Experiencias: "Los suyos," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 25-29 <b>TalkAbroad – Conversación 1</b>	<b>Composición 1</b> ¿(Para) normal y (sobre)natural? 300 palabras - Supersite
Viernes, 4 de septiembre	<b>Conversación 2 – Discusión en el Taxi</b>	<b>Tertulia 1</b> Creadores de realidad 200 palabras - Supersite
Lunes, 7 de septiembre	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	
<b>Clase 5:</b> Miércoles, 9 de septiembre	Tira cómica: "Viaje espacial," <i>Revista</i> : pp.30-31 Composición: "¿Para-normal y...," <i>Revista</i> : p.32 Debate: "Creadores de realidad," <i>Revista</i> : p.33 <b>Presentación 1</b>	

Fecha	Tema(s) a discutir en clase	Tarea para la próxima clase
Viernes, 11 de septiembre	<b>Conversación 3 – Mi mascota</b>	
<b>Clase 6:</b> Lunes, 14 de septiembre	<b>Lección 2 – Una cuestión de personalidad</b> Cortometraje: "Diez minutos," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 36-41 Estructuras, <i>Revista</i> : pp. 42-45 <b>Presentación 2</b>	
<b>Clase 7:</b> Miércoles, 16 de septiembre	Artículo: "Las cuatro fórmulas..." <i>Revista</i> : pp. 46-50 Cuento: "Micro-cuentos," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 51-54 <b>TalkAbroad – Conversación 2</b>	
Viernes, 18 de septiembre	<b>Conversación 4 – El compañero de cuarto</b>	
<b>Clase 8:</b> Lunes, 21 de septiembre	Poema: "La intrusa" <i>Revista</i> : pp. 55-59 Tira cómica: "Yo le diría..." <i>Revista</i> : pp. 60-61 <b>Presentación 3</b>	<b>Composición 2</b> ¿Crees en los astros? 300 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 9:</b> Miércoles, 23 de septiembre	Composición: "¿Crees en...?", <i>Revista</i> : p.62 Debate: "¿Innato o adquirido?", <i>Revista</i> : p.63	<b>Tertulia 2</b> ¿Innato o adquirido? 200 palabras - Supersite
Viernes, 25 de septiembre	<b>Conversación 5 – El padre realista</b>	
<b>Clase 10:</b> Lunes, 28 de septiembre	<b>Lección 3 – La influencia de los medios</b> Cortometraje: "Namala," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 66-71 Estructuras, <i>Revista</i> : pp. 72-75 <b>Presentación 4</b>	

Fecha	Tema(s) a discutir en clase	Tarea para la próxima clase
<b>Clase 11:</b> Miércoles, 30 de septiembre	Entrevista: "Tengo un carácter fuerte..." <i>Revista:</i> pp. 76-80 Opinión: "Cara y cruz..." <i>Revista:</i> pp. 81-85 <b>TalkAbroad – Conversación 3</b>	
Viernes, 2 de octubre	<b>Conversación 6 – Problemas de comunicación</b>	
<b>Clase 12:</b> Lunes, 5 de octubre	Cuento: "¿Me agregás..." <i>Revista:</i> pp. 86-91 Tira cómica: "La lectura,...," <i>Revista:</i> pp.92-93 <b>Presentación 5</b>	
<b>Clase 13:</b> Miércoles, 7 de octubre	<b>Práctica para el examen oral</b>	
Viernes, 9 de octubre	<b>Examen oral</b>	<b>Participación 1</b>
Lunes, 12 de octubre	<b>Fall Break - Academic Holiday</b>	
<b>Clase 14:</b> Miércoles, 14 de octubre	Composición: "Crítica de cine," <i>Revista:</i> p.94	
Viernes, 16 de octubre	<b>Conversación 7 – Serpientes y barro</b>	<b>Composición 3</b> Una crítica de cine 300 palabras - Supersite

Fecha	Tema(s) a discutir en clase	Tarea para la próxima clase
<b>Clase 15:</b> Lunes, 19 de octubre	Debate: "La telebasura a debate." <i>Revista</i> : p.95 <b>Presentación 6</b>	<b>Tertulia 3</b> La telebasura a debate 200 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 16:</b> Miércoles, 21 de octubre	<b>Lección 4 – Las garras del poder</b> Cortometraje: "¿Quién es..." <i>Revista</i> : pp. 98-103 <b>TalkAbroad – Conversación 4</b>	
Viernes, 23 de octubre	<b>Conversación 8 – Los opuestos de la conciencia</b>	
<b>Clase 17:</b> Lunes, 26 de octubre	Estructuras, <i>Revista</i> : pp. 104-107 Opinión: "La tortilla," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 108-111 <b>Presentación 7</b>	
<b>Clase 18:</b> Miércoles, 28 de octubre	Experiencias: "Carta abierta..." <i>Revista</i> : pp. 112-116 Poema: "Oda a..." <i>Revista</i> : pp. 117-121	
Viernes, 30 de octubre	<b>Conversación 9 – La herencia</b>	<b>Composición 4</b> Una carta al presidente 300 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 19:</b> Lunes, 2 de noviembre	Tira cómica: "Inseguridad de..." <i>Revista</i> : pp.122-123 Composición: "Carta al..." <i>Revista</i> : p.124 Debate: "Las empresas..." <i>Revista</i> : p.125 <b>Presentación 8</b>	<b>Tertulia 4</b> Las empresas multinacionales 200 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 20:</b> Miércoles, 4 de noviembre	<b>Lección 5 – Misterios del amor</b> Cortometraje: "Porsiemprejamón," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 128-133 <b>TalkAbroad – Conversación 5</b>	

Fecha	Tema(s) a discutir en clase	Tarea para la próxima clase
Viernes, 6 de noviembre	<b>Conversación 10 – Amor a primera vista</b>	
<b>Clase 21:</b> Lunes, 9 de noviembre	Estructuras, <i>Revista</i> : pp. 134-137 Artículo: "Cuál es el...," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 138-141 <b>Presentación 9</b>	
<b>Clase 22:</b> Miércoles, 11 de noviembre	Opinión: "Lo que dure...," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 142-146 Cuento: "Cine y...," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 147-151	
Viernes, 13 de noviembre	<b>Conversación 11 – Los celos</b>	<b>Composición 5</b> Definición de arte 300 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 23:</b> Lunes, 16 de noviembre	Tira cómica: "El amor es divertido," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 152-153 Composición: "Exprésate...," <i>Revista</i> : p.154 Debate: "Los misterios del amor," <i>Revista</i> : p.125 <b>Presentación 10</b>	<b>Tertulia 5</b> Los misterios del amor 200 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 24:</b> Miércoles, 18 de noviembre	<b>Lección 6 – Modos de vivir</b> Cortometraje: "El sándwich de...," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 158-163 <b>TalkAbroad – Conversación 6</b>	
Viernes, 20 de noviembre	<b>Conversación 12 – La mascota</b>	
<b>Clase 25:</b> Lunes, 23 de noviembre	Estructuras, <i>Revista</i> : pp. 164-167 Experiencias: "Ni coja, ni..." <i>Revista</i> : pp. 168-172	

Fecha	Tema(s) a discutir en clase	Tarea para la próxima clase
Miércoles, 25 de noviembre	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
Viernes, 27 de noviembre	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
<b>Clase 26:</b> Lunes, 30 de noviembre	Artículo: "Padre,...," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 173-177 Cuento: "Los merengues," <i>Revista</i> : pp. 178-182	<b>Composición 6</b> La receta de la felicidad 300 palabras - Supersite
<b>Clase 27:</b> Miércoles, 2 de diciembre	Tira cómica: "Teléfono,...," <i>Revista</i> : pp.183-184 Composición: "La receta," <i>Revista</i> : p.185 Debate: "¿Cuáles son los...?," <i>Revista</i> : p.186	<b>Tertulia 6</b> Los efectos de la inmigración 200 palabras - Supersite
Viernes, 4 de diciembre	<b>Fecha límite – Proyecto de conversación</b> <b>Práctica para el examen oral</b> <b>Últimas conclusiones del curso</b>	<b>Participación 2</b>
Jueves, 10 de diciembre	<b>Examen Oral II</b> <b>10:30 AM - 12:30 PM</b>	

## DIRECTIVES

Students are responsible for the information in this syllabus throughout the semester. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and class assignments.

## PREPARING FOR CLASS

You are expected to have each day studied the assigned grammar before coming to class. Studying and doing the homework before each class will help you contribute to any class activity. You should always take notes as you study. Do not worry if you do not understand everything, and do not be afraid to ask questions. Conversation between the students and the instructor and, more importantly, among students is the essence of this class. Learning within this framework requires much more than mere attendance; it requires that each student actively participate in the class. It is critical to your success in this course that you not only study the materials but that you also actively reflect on them by taking notes, doing additional research, or approaching your classmates with questions outside the class.

## CIVILITY

Cellular phones, headphones, blackberries, laptops and any other such devices are strictly prohibited in this class. Students using electronic devices will be considered absent for the day. Let your instructor know if you are expecting an emergency call. Eating and drinking in this class is discouraged since communication among students is an essential element of the learning experience. All students are expected to pay attention to the instructor and to their classmates at all times and engage in each activity as expected of them. While in class, you will be expected to behave appropriately. Students who engage in inappropriate or disruptive behavior will be dismissed from the class. Inappropriate behavior includes sleeping or blatant lack of attention (gazing out the window, texting, working on assignments for a different class), private or unrelated conversations, disrespectful comments and disregard for directions as provided by the instructor or as expected from a college student. While in class you should pay attention and participate actively in discussion when appropriate.

## STUDENT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

Maintaining high standards of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 217 – Student Academic Misconduct at [Policy Central](#).

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). An Accommodation Request (AR) 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. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

## COVID – 19

1. Students must take personal responsibility in following the recommended CDC COVID-19 guidelines. Students are expected follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech including, but not limited to, notices on Tennessee Tech's webpage, building and facilities signage, and similar publications. The university's Return to Campus Student Handbook can be found at <https://www.tntech.edu/return/index.php>.

2. According to Tennessee Tech University's protocols, face coverings must be worn (covering the mouth and nose) by students in the classroom at all times.
3. Students must abide by predetermined social distancing guidelines and seating arrangements. Movement during class sessions should be limited as to not endanger other students or faculty. Students should be conscious and respectful of others and their health concerns.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols on these matters will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19, regardless of where the COVID-19 testing is performed, to Tennessee Tech's Health Services. The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.