

# Tennessee Tech University

## Department of Foreign Languages

### Spanish 3020: Oral Communication in Spanish Fall 2021

Instructor: Dr. Michael K. Olsen  
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Horas de oficina: lunes, miércoles, viernes, 2:00-3:00; and by app., OKLY 215A  
Horas de clase: lunes, miércoles, viernes 1:00-1:50, OKLY 212

#### **Required text and accounts**

- Blanco, José A., (2018). *Revista: Conversación sin barreras* (5th edition). Boston: Vista Higher Learning.
- TalkAbroad account. You will need to open an account on this conversation platform at <https://talkabroad.com> and join our section: Olsen2021-103708

**Prerequisites:** SPAN 2020 or an equivalent

#### **Course description**

Oral Communication in Spanish continues to strengthen your communication skills in Spanish. The main goals of this course are to further develop language proficiency and communicative oral competence of students. The main course activities will include discussion, conversations, and presentations. During the semester we will work on improving fluency, pronunciation, comprehension skills, strategic competence such as paraphrasing skills, and expanding vocabulary. Although the emphasis is on speaking and listening skills, reading and writing assignments are an important part of this course as well. While certain grammar points are reviewed, students' proficiency is not measured by grammatical competence alone. Students will often work in groups and pairs so it is imperative that they be willing to interact with one another and be tolerant of one another's opinions.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- Participate actively in conversations in most informal and some formal settings on topics of personal and public interest.  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen)]
- Narrate and describe in major verb tenses with some control of aspect  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen)]  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak)]
- Assert opinions on topics of current relevance in modern society  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen)]  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak)]

[Cultures: Relating cultural practice and products to perspectives (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)]

[Connections: Making connections and acquiring information and diverse perspectives (Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Evaluate)]

- Deal effectively with unanticipated complications through a variety of communicative and coping devices  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen)]  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak)]
- Sustain communication by using, with suitable accuracy and confidence, connected discourse of paragraph length  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak)]  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen)]
- Demonstrate confidence in initiating and sustaining conversations in Spanish, regardless of the interlocutor's identity  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen)]  
[Comparisons: Language comparisons and cultural comparisons (Investigate, Explain, Reflect)]  
[Communities: School and global communities (Use language within and beyond the classroom)]

### **Evaluation**

Participation	15%
Homework and Readings	11%
TalkAbroad Conversations (6)	12%
Presentations	10%
Mid-term Conversation	12%
Chapter Exams (3)	20%
Final Conversation	20%

### **Participation 15%**

1. Students will be graded based on their active participation in class activities (whole class, group work, pair work) and use of Spanish. We are here to learn; so contribute with your thoughts and concerns! Respectful behaviour is expected (**no use of cell phones** in the class).

2. Attendance is necessary to achieve high learning outcomes. When absent, participation is not possible and therefore results in a loss of participation points. Absences that are justified by a doctor's note are excused. In case of an emergency (i.e., due to grave illness, hospitalization, funeral of a family member, etc.), you must let me know as soon as possible. Send me an email, or leave me a note in my mailbox. Written documentation/evidence of extenuating circumstances must be given to me within one week of the absence.

3. Arrive on time. When students arrive late, they disrupt the class and may miss important announcements.

### **Homework and readings 11%**

Students are expected to come to class prepared by having completed the Preparación and/or Lectura for that day. Students are expected to come to class prepared by having researched the topic of discussion or debate. This may include searching through newspapers, blogs, videos, music, and podcasts from the Spanish-speaking world for information for discussions or debates. Some of the readings consist of pre-reading/watching and analysis activities. We will complete many of these activities in class; however, reading over and thinking about the questions and vocabulary activities will help students be prepared to carry out the conversations and other activities in class. Showing up for class unprepared will result in lower participation points and ultimately a lower course performance.

Tareas will consist of grammar practice exercises and extensions of reading analysis activities designed to help students practice and reflect upon the content that we will be covering in class. The homework will be assigned in class and the due dates will be given at that time.

### **TalkAbroad Conversations 12%**

Throughout the semester students will carry out conversations with 6 *different* native speakers via *TalkAbroad*. Each conversation will be 30 minutes. These conversations are recorded by *TalkAbroad* and will be evaluated by the instructor. Students will also complete a conversation guide for each conversation. More information about *TalkAbroad* can be found in the *TalkAbroad* Student Manual found on their website.

*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 you partners is allowed.
3. Under no circumstance should you send any personal information to your partners (i.e., social security number, address, bank account number, credit card number, date of birth, email address, passwords of any kind, phone number, social network IDs, etc.)

**All assignments including homework and conversations will be due on the class period they appear on the calendar or the given due date at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated. Late assignments will receive a 10% reduction each day they are late.**

### **Presentations 10%**

Students will complete a variety of individual and group presentations during the course of the semester. These presentations will provide opportunities to improve speaking skills.

As part of the presentation grade, each student will sign up to give the Bienvenida at the beginning of class three times throughout the semester. The Bienvenida will take 3-4

minutes and must include the following: 1) a brief welcome to the classmates, 2) the date and weather, 3) some basic information about yourself (e.g., major, likes/dislikes, interesting things about you, your interests, etc.), 4) and a current event in the city, state or world. NO WRITTEN NOTES.

Students will also give a Final Presentation near the end of the semester. Final Presentations can either be teaching the class how to do something or presenting something that you are interested in. I will need to approve the topic before you begin your preparations.

The Final Presentation will be given in class and will be 13-15 minutes in length. The use of PowerPoint, posters, photos, artwork, or other props during the presentation is encouraged as long as they contain no text other than titles. These must be submitted to iLearn before the presentation. Two 3x5" note cards with bullet points may be used. Individual presentations should be well rehearsed. No direct reading from the note card is allowed and will result in a drastic reduction of the grade. A grading rubric for presentations will be posted on iLearn.

### **Mid-term Conversation 12%**

Students will carry out a 'Conversación Parcial' at mid-term with a partner. On the day of the conversation, one conversation topic will be randomly selected from a set of conversation topics previously provided to the students. Further details of the mid-term conversation will be provided in class.

### **Chapter Exams 20%**

There will be three (3) chapter exams. Make-up exams will not be given. No exceptions. For students who have an excusable absence for the date of the missed exam, the average grade of the other exams will replace their missed exam grade. Do not make any travel plans without checking the class calendar.

### **Final Conversation 20%**

The final exam will be a conversation with the instructor about the topics covered during the semester. The conversation should be between 9-10 minutes in duration. Do not make any travel plans without checking the final exam schedule. Pre-existing travel plans will not be considered a reasonable cause for missing a chapter exam or the final exam.

### **Accessibility Services**

Any student who believes that he or she will require accommodations to meet the course requirements should consult the Accessibility Education Center located in the Roaden University Center (RUC) Rm. 112 (931-372-6119) preferably during the first week of classes so that reasonable accommodations can be made to ensure that everyone may participate in the course. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

### Academic Misconduct

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](#).

### COVID-19 University Protocols

1. Each student must take personal responsibility for knowing and following the university's COVID-19 protocols. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech on its official COVID-19 webpage: [www.tntech.edu/covid19](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19).
2. As conditions related to the pandemic change, the university's COVID-19 protocols are also likely to change. Students are expected to monitor the university's official COVID-19 webpage to stay up to date on all university COVID-19 protocols.
3. If the university's COVID-19 protocols include the wearing of face coverings inside campus facilities, then face coverings must be worn covering the mouth and nose. Protocols will apply to all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19 to Tennessee Tech's Health Services by following the student link at the following website: [www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php) . The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.
6. Students can get a COVID-19 vaccine on campus at Tech Health Services. Call ahead to schedule at (931) 372-3320. COVID-19 vaccines are given free of charge daily, as well as testing.
7. Per CDC guidelines, you are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, OR
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

### Grading Scale

A: 90-100    B: 80-89    C: 70-79    D: 60-69    F: 0-59

**IMPORTANT:** This syllabus is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. However, I reserve the right to make midcourse changes to the readings, assignments, or exam dates as needed.

**Calendar**

This calendar is tentative. Students are responsible for checking iLearn and their university email accounts. Assignments, guidelines, and other deadlines will be posted and sent there.

**L:** Lectura    **T:** Tarea    **P:** Preparación    **TA:** TalkAbroad

Semana	Fecha	Tema	Lecturas y tareas
1	20 de agosto	Introducción al curso	<b>L:</b> Plan de estudios (Syllabus)
2	23 de agosto	El Hablar	<b>Syllabus information assignment</b>
	<b>CAPÍTULO 1: ¿Realidad o fantasía?</b>		
	25 de agosto	<u>Cortometraje:</u> Viaje a Marte	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 1, pp. 2-9
	27 de agosto	Celebración de la fantasía	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 1, pp. 14-17 <b>T:</b> Sueños de niño
3	30 de agosto	Entretenimiento de los medios visuales (presentación)	<b>P:</b> Preparar una presentación de tu medio visual favorito <b>L:</b> Capítulo 1, pp. 10-11 <b>T:</b> La fantasía
	1 de septiembre	Las noticias	<b>P:</b> Traer computadora a clase <b>L:</b> Capítulo 1, pp. 12-13 <b>T:</b> Ser y estar
	3 de septiembre	Tertulia	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 1, p. 33 <b>T:</b> Las preposiciones
4	6 de septiembre	<b>NO HAY CLASE</b>	<b>Día del trabajo</b>
	<b>CAPÍTULO 2: Una cuestión de personalidad</b>		
	8 de septiembre	<u>Cortometraje:</u> Diez minutos	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 2, pp. 34-41 <b>TA:</b> <b>Conversación 1</b>
	10 de septiembre	Las cuatro fórmulas científicas de la felicidad	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 2, pp. 46-50 <b>T:</b> Diez minutos; Guía de Conversación 1
5	13 de septiembre	La cultura (presentación)	<b>P:</b> Preparar una pequeña presentación sobre la cultura de un país hispanohablante con lo cual estás acostumbrado <b>L:</b> Capítulo 2, pp. 42-45 <b>T:</b> La felicidad
	15 de septiembre	La intrusa	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 2, pp. 55-59 <b>T:</b> Narración en el pasado
	17 de septiembre	Tertulia/Repaso	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 2, p. 63 <b>T:</b> La intrusa

6	20 de septiembre	<b>Examen 1</b>	<b>Preparar para el examen</b>
	<b>CAPÍTULO 3: La influencia de los medios</b>		
	22 de septiembre	<u>Cortometraje</u> : Namnala	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 3, pp. 64-71
7	24 de septiembre	Cultura popular y la tecnología	<b>P:</b> Investigar sobre la influencia de la tecnología en la cultura y nuestras vidas <b>L:</b> Capítulo 3, pp. 72-75 <b>T:</b> Pronombres de objeto y adjetivos <b>TA: Conversación 2</b>
	27 de septiembre	Cara y cruz de las tecnologías de la información	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 3, pp. 81-85 <b>T:</b> Guía de Conversación 2
	29 de septiembre	¿Me agregás como amiga?	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 3, pp. 86-91 <b>T:</b> Cara y cruz de las tecnologías
8	1 de octubre	Tertulia	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 3, p. 95 <b>T:</b> ¿Me agregás como amiga?
	4 de octubre	<b>Práctica para la conversación parcial</b>	<b>Preparar para el examen</b>
	6 de octubre	<b>Conversación Parcial</b>	<b>Preparar para el examen</b>
	<b>CAPÍTULO 4: Las garras del poder</b>		
9	8 de octubre	<u>Cortometraje</u> : ¿Quién es Echegoyen?	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 4, pp. 96-103 <b>TA: Conversación 3</b>
	11 de octubre	<b>NO HAY CLASE</b>	<b>Vacaciones de otoño</b>
	13 de octubre	La globalización	<b>P:</b> Investigar los efectos de la globalización
10	15 de octubre	La política y los políticos	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 4, pp. 104-107 <b>T:</b> Guía de Conversación 3; Subjuntivo y pronombres relativos
	18 de octubre	La tortilla	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 4, pp. 108-111
	20 de octubre	Tertulia/Repaso	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 4, p. 125 <b>T:</b> Candidat@
	22 de octubre	<b>Examen 2</b>	<b>Preparar para el examen</b>

<b>CAPÍTULO 5: Misterios del amor</b>				
11	25 de octubre	<u>Cortometraje</u> : Porsiemprejamón	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 5, pp. 126-133	
	27 de octubre	Los deportes	<b>P:</b> Prepararte para hablar sobre la importancia de deportes en la sociedad <b>L:</b> Capítulo 5, pp. 134-137 <b>T:</b> Subjuntivo y usos de se	
	29 de octubre	La música	<b>P:</b> Buscar la crítica social en una canción y llevar la letra de la canción a clase.	
12	1 de noviembre	Lo que dure el amor	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 5, pp. 142-146 <b>TA:</b> <b>Conversación 4</b>	
	3 de noviembre	Tertulia	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 5, p. 155 <b>T:</b> Guía de Conversación 4 <b>T:</b> Reparaciones	
	<b>CAPÍTULO 6: Modos de vivir</b>			
	5 de noviembre	<u>Cortometraje</u> : El sándwich de Mariana	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 6, pp. 156-163	
13	8 de noviembre	La educación	<b>P:</b> Reflexionar sobre tu educación y el valor de la educación <b>T:</b> ¡Basta!	
	10 de noviembre	Cambio climático	<b>P:</b> Investigar las cuestiones fundamentales sobre el cambio de clima y la evidencia de ello	
	12 de noviembre	La inmigración <b>Debates</b>	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 6, pp. 164-167	
14	15 de noviembre	Padre, papá, papi	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 6, pp. 173-177 <b>T:</b> Oraciones con si y usos de se	
	17 de noviembre	Tertulia/Repaso	<b>L:</b> Capítulo 6, p. 186	
	19 de noviembre	<b>Examen 3</b>	<b>TA:</b> <b>Conversación 5</b>	
15	22 de noviembre	Ecuador	<b>T:</b> Guía de Conversación 5	
	24 de noviembre	<b>NO HAY CLASE</b>	<b>Día de acción de gracias</b>	
	26 de noviembre	<b>NO HAY CLASE</b>	<b>Día de acción de gracias</b>	

16	29 de noviembre	<b>Presentaciones Finales</b>	
	1 de diciembre	<b>Presentaciones Finales</b>	
	3 de diciembre	<b>Presentaciones Finales</b>	
17	6 de diciembre	<b>Presentaciones Finales</b>	<b>TA: Conversación 6</b>
	8 de diciembre	<b>Práctica para la conversación final</b>	<b>T: Guía de Conversación 6</b>
Finals	13 de diciembre	<b>Conversación Final</b>	<b>1:00-3:00</b>