

**Advanced Conversation  
Span S321 FALL 2016  
MWF 11:00-11:50 LA 308**

**Professor:** Dr. John Trevathan  
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### **Course Description**

The objective of this course is for students to develop oral abilities and *informal writing* in Spanish. We will also develop oral skills by watching and discussing a number of critically acclaimed films from different Spanish-speaking countries which deal with a variety of cultural, social, and political issues. To achieve the goal of improving oral proficiency, students will participate in various in-class discussions and debates on controversial topics presented in the films. The emphasis in this class will be on improving your communicative oral competency in Spanish. To do well in this course, you need to have already taken at least four semesters of college Spanish (or have the equivalent). Toward the end of the course you will be required to give a fifteen-minute oral presentation.

### **Evaluation**

#### **Assessment:**

The course is structured so that the student regularly receives feedback so that (s)he can achieve the stated outcomes. Progress toward the stated outcomes is assessed using the following criteria:

Attendance:	10%
Participation/Preparation/Homework	15%
Midterm	15%
Group Skit	15%
Final Oral Presentation/Project	20%
Final Exam	25%

### **Textbooks**

McVey Gill, M., Smalley, D., and Haro, M-P. (2006). *Cinema for Spanish Conversation*. 4th Edition. Focus Publishing.

### **Films\***

*Volver* (España, 2006) Dir: Pedro Almodóvar  
*También la lluvia* (España/México, 2010) Dir: Icíar Bollaín  
*Mar adentro* (España, 2004) Dir: Alejandro Amenábar  
*Diarios de motocicleta* (Argentina/Chile/Perú, 2005) Dir: Walter Salles  
*Flores de otro mundo* (España, 1999) Dir. Icíar Bollaín  
*Todo sobre mi madre* (España, 1999) Dir: Pedro Almodóvar

### ***Movies:***

We will watch **seven** movies over the course of the semester. All of the movies (except *Recycled Life*) will be on reserve in the Mansfield Library. You **MUST** however, watch the movie on your own and come to class prepared to discuss it on the days marked on the syllabus. Please take notes while you watch the movie so that you can ask questions and make astute commentaries in class.

### ***Outcomes:***

After this course the student can expect to have acquired the following:

1. the ability to speak extemporaneously for at least five to ten minutes in Spanish on a topic appropriate for a student at the advanced intermediate level
2. the self-confidence to give a fifteen to twenty minute oral presentation in Spanish without using any written materials on a topic (chosen in consultation with the professor) related to the Hispanic world.
3. the ability to work in groups to deliver skits, participate in panel presentations, coordinate debates, etc.).
4. a more in-depth understanding of major topics in Spanish grammar (topics include: ser vs. estar, subjunctive vs. indicative, preterit vs. imperfect, etc.).
5. an appreciation for Hispanic culture via the careful analysis of several Spanish language films and the Spanish language podcast *Radio ambulante*

### **Homework Assignments**

TAREAS: For everyday homework (*Cinema for Spanish Conversation*): **write** all your homework using complete answers and **bring** it to class. Homework will be collected randomly. There might be days when I assign in class extra homework that is not listed on the syllabus that you need to add it or write it down in your own academic calendar (notebook, agenda, book, etc).

PRUEBAS: Throughout the semester, each student **will complete 6 announced quizzes on the assigned films.**

*GROUP SKITS:* we will have group presentations/skits. We will determine the order of presentations a week in advance. You and no more than two other classmates will get together outside of class and decide on a topic for your presentation. (Suggestions include a parody of the material we cover in class or other topics of interest to you and your classmates: environmentalism, politics, art, civil rights—you and your classmates may even write and perform an original play). Make sure that you have my approval on your topic before beginning. You will then perform a skit about that topic for the rest of the class that lasts at least ten minutes but no more than fifteen minutes. You may not read anything nor may you have notes; everything you say will be well rehearsed. You will be graded on creativity, length, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. If any member of your group is absent on the day of the presentation, you must be able to improvise. If you miss your group presentation, you **MUST** provide a documented, verifiable excuse to be allowed to do an additional individual oral presentation to make up for your group skit. Otherwise, your grade will be a 0 for your group presentation.

PRESENTATIONS: We will begin the individual presentations on October 23. I will first ask for volunteers. We will only have one presentation per class period. You will decide on a topic in consultation with me. The topic of your presentation **must** pertain to some cultural aspect of the Hispanic

world. I would like to encourage you to use the vocabulary and grammar that you are familiar with when doing your presentation.

Your presentation is much more than just your personal opinion. You need to analyze and synthesize. Be sure that you have at least three sources (an article, a book, a review, an essay, etc.) on which you can rely. You must turn in a written bibliography the day that you present. You will also need an insightful conclusion. Please do not abruptly end saying that you have run out of time. Plan your talk so that you can offer a well thought out summary that highlights the major points of your presentation. Feel free to use posters, photos, artwork, or other props during your presentation. I will also ask you to write unfamiliar vocabulary on the board so that your classmates can better understand your presentation. Your talk should last fifteen minutes. On the day of your presentation, you **MUST** turn in a detailed outline to me before you begin. Should you forget part of your talk, I will be able to help you. You may not read anything nor may you use notes. Again, you will be graded on creativity, length, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and your bibliography.

Please take notes during each presentation as the material that your classmates cover will appear on the Final Exam. I will notify you of your grade the first class period after the last presentation is given. To be fair, I must listen to everyone's talk before I can assign grades.

*EXAMS:* The midterm and the final will normally have a vocabulary section, a grammar section, and essays.

***Exam Dates:***

**Midterm: October 7**

**Final Exam: December 14**

**Class Discussion / Participation**

The guidelines for each grade range (e.g., A range = A, A-) are outlined below:

- A Consistently participates in oral activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude; often volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class based on at-home preparation; frequently asks questions that reflect preparation of material; cooperates in small groups and works actively to keep the group on task; makes a concerted effort to maintain conversation in Spanish; arrives on time
- B Generally participates in oral activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude; regularly volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class based on at-home preparation; occasionally asks questions that reflect preparation of material; makes constructive contributions in small group work and assists in keeping the group on task; almost always speaks in Spanish; arrives on time
- C Sometimes participates in oral activities with enthusiasm; sometimes volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class, reflecting inadequate at-home preparation; infrequently asks questions which reflect preparation of material; is often unfocused or does not contribute in small group work; attempts to speak in Spanish, but is limited by vocabulary and/or grammar and English; usually arrives on time

D/F Lack of at-home preparation makes it difficult for student to participate in oral activities; rarely volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class; does not ask questions which reflect prior review of material; lapses into English frequently and does not stay focused on tasks in small groups; frequently arrives late

## Attendance

Attendance is required for S321. Students are expected to arrive on time, to be fully prepared for each class, and to participate actively. Tardiness will adversely affect your participation grade. You are expected to read or view the material before each class in order to participate in class discussions. If you are not prepared, your in-class participation grade will be affected.

### Grading Scale:

<b>A 93-100</b>	<b>A- 90-92</b>	<b>B+ 87-89</b>	<b>B 83-86</b>	<b>B- 80-82</b>	<b>C+ 77-79</b>
<b>C 73-76</b>	<b>C- 70-72</b>	<b>D+ 67-69</b>	<b>D 63-66</b>	<b>D- 60-62</b>	<b>F 0-59</b>

*\*\* All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.*

*All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>*

*\*\* The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.*

## Calendario

**(Algunas fechas pueden variar. El profesor les avisará con la debida anticipación)**

### **SEMANA 1**

Lunes 29 agosto: Presentación del curso.

Miércoles 31 septiembre: Podcast *Radio ambulante*, “Todos vuelven”

Viernes 2 septiembre: cont. “Todos vuelven” / Repaso de **Ser y Estar** (ejercicios en Moodle)

### **SEMANA 2**

Lunes 5 de septiembre: *Labor Day*

Miércoles 7 de septiembre: cont. “Todos vuelven” / Repaso de **Futuro** (ejercicios en Moodle)

Viernes 9 de septiembre: Antes de ver la película: *Volver* (277)

### **SEMANA 3**

Lunes 12 de septiembre: **Primera prueba** (281-82); Discusión de *Volver*

Miércoles 14 de septiembre: Cont. discusión de la película (285-86)

Viernes 16 de septiembre: Lectura: “Entrevista con Pedro Almodóvar” (291-294)

### **SEMANA 4**

Lunes 19 de septiembre: **Repaso subjuntivo** (ejercicios en Moodle) / Presentación en grupo A

Miércoles 21 de septiembre: Antes de ver la película: *También la lluvia* / Presentación grupo B

Viernes 23 de septiembre: **Segunda prueba** (144-45) / Discusión de *También la lluvia* (147-48)

Presentación grupo C

### **SEMANA 5**

Lunes 26 de septiembre: **Repaso Subjuntivo** (ejercicios en Moodle) / **Cont. Discusión de *También la lluvia*** / Presentación en grupo, grupo D

Miércoles 28 de septiembre: Antes de ver la película: *Mar adentro* (257) / Presentación en grupo, grupo E

Viernes 30 de septiembre: **Tercera prueba** (259-60) Discusión de *Mar adentro* / **Pretérito e imperfecto** (ejercicios en Moodle)

### **SEMANA 6**

Lunes 3 de octubre: cont. Discusión de *Mar adentro*

Miércoles 5 de octubre: Repaso para el examen

Viernes 7 de octubre: Examen de medio semestre

### **SEMANA 7**

Lunes 10 de octubre: Podcast *Radio ambulante, NN*

Miércoles 12 de octubre: cont. *NN* / **Conjunción sino** (ejercicios en Moodle)

Viernes 14 de octubre: Antes de ver *Diarios de motocicleta* (161)

### **SEMANA 8**

Lunes 17 de octubre: **Cuarta prueba** (165-66) / Discusión de *Diarios de motocicleta* (168-69)

Miércoles 19 de octubre: **Cont. Discusión de *Diarios de motocicleta***

Viernes 21 de octubre: Lectura: Ernesto Guevara, “Notas de viaje, Selecciones” / Presentación oral 1

### **SEMANA 9**

Lunes 24 de octubre: **Verbo Gustar** (ejercicios en Moodle) / Presentación oral 2

Miércoles 26 de octubre: Antes de ver *Flores de otro mundo* (222-23) / Presentación oral 3

Viernes 28 de octubre: **Quinta prueba (226)** / Discusión de *Flores de otro mundo* / Presentación oral 4

### **SEMANA 10**

Lunes 31 de octubre: Cont. discusión de *Flores de otro mundo* / Presentación oral 5

Miércoles 2 de noviembre: **Subjuntivo** (ejercicios en Moodle) / Presentación oral 6

Viernes 4 de noviembre: **Lectura: “Diana y Fernando: De La Habana a Soria” (232-233)**

### **SEMANA 11**

Lunes 7 de noviembre: Podcast *Radio ambulante*, “El estudiante rebelde”

Miércoles 9 de noviembre: Cont. “El estudiante rebelde” / Presentación oral 7

Viernes 11 de noviembre: *Veterans Day*

### **SEMANA 12**

Lunes 14 de noviembre: Antes de ver *Recycled Life* /Presentación oral 8

Miércoles 16 de noviembre: **Pronombres** (ejercicios en Moodle) /Presentación oral 9

Viernes 18 de noviembre: Discusión de *Recycled Life* /Presentación oral 10

### **SEMANA 13**

Lunes 21 de noviembre: cont. Discusión de *Recycled Life* / **El infinitivo** (ejercicios en Moodle) /Presentación oral 11

*Thanksgiving break Wednesday November 23-November 25*

### **SEMANA 14**

Lunes 28 de noviembre: Antes de ver *Todo sobre mi madre* (238-39) / Presentación oral 12

Miércoles 30 de noviembre: Discusión: *Todo sobre mi madre* (244-45) / **Pronombres** (ejercicios en Moodle) / Presentación oral 13

Viernes 2 de diciembre: Cont. discusión de *Todo sobre mi madre* / Presentación oral 14

### **SEMANA 15**

Lunes 5 de diciembre: Lectura: “Las chicas de Pedro” / Presentación oral 15

Miércoles 7 de diciembre: **Pronombres** (ejercicios en Moodle) / Repaso para el examen final

Viernes 9 de diciembre: Repaso para el examen final / Evaluaciones

## **SEMANA 16**

Lunes 12 de diciembre: Conclusiones

**Examen Final: Miércoles 14 de diciembre, 8:00-10:00 a.m.**