SPNS408: SPANISH ADVANCED COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION (Spring 2019)

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., LA 249
Instructor: Dr. Pablo E. Requena
Email: pablo.requena@mso.umt.edu
Office: LA 429
Office hours: MWF 8-9am, 11-noon
(Please e-mail me to schedule appointment)

Course Description

This course is designed to teach you how to speak and write better in Spanish. To help us do this, we will be covering the first seven chapters in the Repase y escriba textbook/workbook. This course then aims that students expand their vocabulary in specific semantic fields as well as the strengthening their knowledge and use of grammar. The specific grammatical topics that we will cover include the preterit and the imperfect, ser vs. estar, special verb constructions (gustar) pattern, pronoun constructions, hace and other constructions related to time, the subjunctive in noun clauses, in relative clauses, and in adverbial clauses. This material is contextualized within cultural readings in our textbook. We will also study the distinciones léxicas (problematic words and/or expressions) in each chapter of the book as well as elementary mistakes. In conjunction with this, we will also review how to write well-developed essays.

Prerequisites

Spanish 301 (Having taken SPNS 321 will also help)

Course Objectives

After this course, students can expect to have acquired the following:
1) An improved ability to communicate in Spanish at the advanced level (both orally and in writing)
2) The self-confidence to give an oral presentation in Spanish without using any written materials on a topic (chosen in consultation with the professor) related to the Hispanic world.
3) Mastery of vocabulary specific to the topics addressed in order to be able to discuss such topics and express opinions about them.
4) A thorough knowledge of all grammatical points mentioned in the course description.
5) Clarification of problematic expressions in Spanish (for example “time” can be expressed as “tiempo,” “hora,” “vez,” etc. depending on context)
6) Mastery of a number of errors that will not be acceptable for upper-division Spanish students.

Spanish 408 serves as the exit course in language skills for the Spanish major, academic and teaching tracks. The only prerequisite is SPNS 301-so the skill level of participants will vary from those who have just completed 301 to those who have completed all requirements for the major including a semester or two studying abroad in a Spanish speaking country.
Materials

1. Repase y escriba. Curso avanzado de gramática y composición. Séptima edición (Students Book only) Available at the UM Bookstore.
3. Moodle website for class will include any other necessary materials (e.g., PowerPoint lectures, announcements and updates in course schedule (if necessary), and gradebook).

Course Requirements and Grading

In this class we will be using a point system. This means that for each assignment you will receive points. You can easily predict the performance on the course as the semester unfolds by adding up the points you have so far and compare that to the table below:

Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now, let’s see which are the graded assignments and requirements:

- **Presentations (20 points of final grade):**
  
  a) Individual Oral Presentation: (10 points of final grade):
  
  b) Oral Conversation in pairs: (10 points of final grade):

- **Compositions (40 points of final grade):**
  
  a) Composición 1 (in-class) (10 points of final grade):
     - Re-write (10 points of final grade):
  
  b) Composición 2 (at home) (10 points of final grade):
     - Re-write (10 points of final grade):

- **Exams (30 points of final grade):** INCLUDES DICTADO para evaluar ortografía, GRAMATICA y VOLABULARIO estudiados!!!
  
  a) Written exam (10 points of final grade):

  b) Written final exam (20 points of final grade):

- **Active class participation and preparation (10 points of final grade):** Your participation is key to the success of this course.
Other Policies and Information

**E-mail/Companion site/Moodle:** All students must frequently access their email, the student companion site to the textbook, & our Moodle site.

**Extra credit:** There will be no extra credit assignments in this class.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to 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. See: [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)

**Special Considerations and/or Disabilities:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Office hours:** One of the best ways to take full advantage of learning in this course is by coming to my office hours. I am anxious to guide you in your academic pursuits. Take advantage of the hours listed above or email me for an appointment if those times do not work for you. If you come for help with the course materials, please bring your notes and prepare your questions in advance.

**Cell-phone, Tablet, and Laptop Use:** You may not use cell phones in class, and I would prefer that you do not use laptops or iPads either. Checking email, texting, facebook, etc. is distracting for you and for me. Besides, note taking on the computer would be very difficult in this class since you will be a lot of special symbols not readily available in computer keyboards (i.e. it’s much faster by hand).

**Contents**

**Capítulo 1: Recuerdos De La Niñez 1**
Lectura: «La I latina», José Rafael Pocaterra 2  
Sección Gramatical: The Preterite and the Imperfect 7  
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: Expresiones con la palabra letra y con las letras del alfabeto 18  
Distinciones: Equivalentes de to know 21  
Para escribir mejor: La composición 24

**Capítulo 2: En Defensa De Los Animales 27**
Sección Gramatical: Uses of Ser 32
Uses of estar 35
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: El género de los nombres de animales 45
Distinciones: Equivalentes en español de to ask 47
Para escribir mejor: La acentuación 49

Capítulo 3: El Papel De La Mujer En La Sociedad 53
Lectura: «Águeda», Pío Baroja 54
Sección Gramatical: Special Verb Constructions 59
Pronoun Constructions: Special Uses of the Indirect Object Pronoun 66
The Perfect tenses 68
Time Expressions 71
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: Formación y uso de diminutivos, aumentativos y despectivos 72
Distinciones: Equivalentes en español de to look 75
Para escribir mejor: Las palabras de enlace 78

Capítulo 4: La Violencia Doméstica 83
Lectura: «Réquiem con tostadas», Mario Benedetti 84
Sección Gramatical: The Subjunctive 90
The Subjunctive in Noun Clauses 91
Sequence of Tenses 98
The Subjunctive in Independent Clauses 104
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: Verbos formados con los prefijos en-, em- y a- 108
Distinciones: Equivalentes en español de but 110
Para escribir mejor: Usos de la coma 113

Capítulo 5: Amor Y Tecnología 117
Lectura: «El amor en los tiempos de Skype», Revista Semana 118
Sección Gramatical: The Subjunctive with Impersonal Expressions 123
The Subjunctive in Relative Clauses 126
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: La influencia del inglés en los países hispánicos 133
Distinciones: Usos y Significados del verbo andar 136
Para escribir mejor: El punto y coma 139

Capítulo 6: Civilizaciones Precolombinas 142
Lectura: «El señor de Sipán», José Manuel Novoa, Ocholeguas.com 143
Sección Gramatical: The Subjunctive in Adverbial Clauses 148
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: La contribución de las lenguas indígenas al español 159
Capítulo 7: El Sueño Americano 167
Lectura: «‘La Bestia’, un viaje a ninguna parte», Jon Sistiaga, El País Internacional 168
Sección Gramatical: Uses of the Definite Article 175
Uses of the Indefinite Article 179
The So-called Neuter Article lo 183
Prepositions I 184
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: Las palabras compuestas 193
Distinciones: Parecer y parecerse a 196
Para escribir mejor: El diálogo 198

Capítulo 8: Entretenimientos 201
Lectura: «Las telenovelas», Manuel Menéndez 202
Sección Gramatical: Prepositions II 207
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: Los sustantivos abstractos 217
Distinciones: Algunos equivalentes en español de to run 219
Para escribir mejor: La traducción 223

Capítulo 9: El Amor Y El Olvido 228
Lectura: «Rip-Rip el aparecido», Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera 229
Sección Gramatical: Uses of para 235
Uses of por 237
Special uses of para and por 244
Compound Prepositions 247
Sección Léxica: Ampliación: Sustantivos formados con participios pasivos 249
Distinciones: Equivalentes en español de to take 253
Para escribir mejor: La narración 255
de la palabra cuenta 299
Para escribir mejor: Las cartas 302