Stephen F. Austin State University  
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication  
SPA 231.002- Intermediate Spanish  
Fall 2017

Professor: Dr. Carlos Cuadra  
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E-mail: encambioel@hotmail.com  
Class Meeting: MWF 11:00-11:50 TR 11:00-12:15  
Office Hours: MW 12:00-01:00 TR 12:30-02:00


Students should not bring their book to class.

Description: Spanish 231 is the third level of Spanish at SFASU. It is designed to continue the development of students' skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in Spanish and help them attain a better understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture. The class will be taught in the target language in order to facilitate and encourage the students' interest in becoming fluent in Spanish. This course presents grammatical structure, vocabulary and cultural knowledge necessary for effective communication in the target language.

Organization: This course will cover "Lección 13" through "Lección 18" in Vistas, Fourth Edition.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three classes without documented justification will fail the class with an F.

Participation: Using Spanish to interact with your professor and the other students in the class is an important aspect of learning the language and cannot be measured in written exams. Therefore a portion of the final grade will depend on class participation. Students are required to attend all classes. There is no make-up of missed classwork, quizzes or other activities in the class. Talk to your professor about any attendance problem.
This class is taught in Spanish. Students will be required to speak Spanish at all times during class. Having a good participation grade in this class is not easy. Keep in mind that just coming to class and not speaking Spanish means a 0 (zero) in class participation. Average participation, even after turning in all homework, is no more than 50 points worth. These are my specific criteria to assess a class participation grade:

-85 to 100 participation points: the student comes to class well prepared, shows initiative and has answers to the questions asked by the professor or other students. He or she has interesting suggestions and observations that improve the class, is willing to be a part of any activity during the class period and helps other students.

-70 to 85 participation points: the student comes prepared to class, participates frequently and pays attention to the explanations.

-60 to 70 participation points: the student comes badly prepared to class and participates reluctantly in the activities. He or she asks questions to other students during explanations instead of asking the professor.

-20 to 60 points: the student doesn’t prepare for the class. He or she answers rarely to the questions of the professor and doesn’t pay enough attention during class explanations

-0 to 20 points: the student speaks English in class or diverts attention of the other students.

This type of participation also insists that students are respectful and attentive to others. Distracting behavior will result in a low participation grade. Cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom. Electronic devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful. Using cell phones in class will result in a 0 (zero) in participation grade.

Final Grades are determined as follows:

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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Oral Exams</td>
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<td>Exam I</td>
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<td>Class Participation and Homework</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Scale**

- 90-100 pts  A
- 80-89 pts  B
- 70-79 pts  C
- 60-69 pts  D
- Below 60 pts  F

**Quizzes:** We will have frequent short quizzes, usually on Thursdays. In order to pass the class, students must have a 70 or higher in their final quiz grade. Missing class or arriving late won’t be excuse to make up any quiz.

**Exams:** There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam, with exercises about the films assigned in class, grammar and a composition. There will be also two Oral Exams that will take place during office hours. In the first Oral Exam the professor will check on the proficiency level of every student in order to establish specific and personalized goals for the second Oral Exam. At the end of the first Oral Exam, every student will get a list of goals that he or she has to accomplish for the second Oral Exam. These goals include listening to Spanish songs, reading a Spanish book or watching some Spanish movies, depending on the proficiency of each student. These extra goals are negotiable. Students have ONE WEEK from the day they take the first oral exam to decide if they want to change their goals. After that time, goals can not be changed. The grade of the second Oral Exam will be based on the student’s ability to reach these personalized goals.

Improvement does not come without effort. That is why class participation is so important. It will allow the students to reach a good level of spoken proficiency, necessary to have a good (or excellent) grade in the second Oral Exam.

**Missed Exams:** Oral and written Exam dates are indicated in the course syllabus. There are no make-up exams unless the student has an excused absence according to University policy. If, for reasons beyond your control, you know that you will not be able to take an exam, talk to your professor to arrange an alternate day or time before the day of the test. A student who misses an exam without previously arranging for an alternate day or time must present appropriate documentation of a personal tragedy or medical emergency in order to avoid a 0 (zero) on the exam.
This policy is especially important in regards to oral exams. Missing an oral exam without a justified reason will result not only in a 0 (zero) in the exam, but in the loss of class participation points.

**Class Participation and Homework.** As part of the classwork, students will complete the online exercises for the class specified in the *Vistas* website. Only the students that complete all exercises will receive a class participation grade. The rest will get a zero in participation.

**Final Exam Policy:** The final exam will be comprehensive. It will cover the chapters 13 through 18 of *Vistas*. There is some important information about the final exam that you need to know:

1-If your average grade before the Final Exam is 93 or higher, you don't need to take the Final Exam. Your Final Grade will be an A.

2-If you take the final exam and don't get a C (70 points) you will get a D (or an F, depending on your average) in the class.

3-If your average in the class is 80 or higher before the Final Exam, your Final Grade in the class won't be lower than your final exam grade. That means that, if you have a B in the class but you get an A in your final exam, your final grade will be an A.

**Tentative Schedule**

**Fall 2017**

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<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>8-29 Course presentation.</th>
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<td>R</td>
<td>8-31 Chapter 13</td>
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T  9-19
R  9-21

T  9-26
R  9-28

T  10-3 Chapter 15
R  10-5

T  10-10
R  10-12

T  10-17
R  10-19

T  10-24 Review for the Midterm Exam
R  10-26 Midterm Exam

T  10-31 Chapter 16
R  11-2

T  11-7
R  11-9

T  11-14 Chapter 17
R  11-16

T  11-21 Thanksgiving Holidays
ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

University Policies: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of
another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:

1. To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression, i.e. descriptive, expositive, narrative, scientific, and self-expressive, in written, visual and oral communication.
4. To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
5. To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. To engage in a variety of readings, (fiction and nonfiction) to develop writing skills.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in effective oral communication with native speakers of the target language.
2. Students will analyze and summarize authentic texts in the target language.
3. Students will write effective, original compositions demonstrating the ability to analyze, persuade and/or defend an opinion in the target language.
4. Students will apply critical thinking skills in comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.
5. Students will, if seeking teacher certification, demonstrate mastery of professional skills necessary to teach the target language.
6. Students will demonstrate mastery of linguistic and cultural skills necessary to pursue graduate study and/or careers.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** In this course students will gain an understanding of the Spanish Language at the advanced level. The class will emphasize the following elements:

1. Develop writing skills using the four major modes of writing: description, narration, exposition, and argumentation.
2. Understanding of grammar, lexicon, spelling and punctuation.
3. Increase language competence by engaging in prewriting, drafting and revision.
4. Appreciate various writing styles through reading fiction and nonfiction genres.
5. Produce writing at the advanced level.