Dr. Mario Morera  
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Class meeting: T-Th: 9:30-10:45, Via Zoom  
Office Hours: M/W/F 10-11 and T/Th 10:45-12, or by appointment.

**General Purpose of the Course:** SPA 2313 is specifically designed for Spanish heritage speakers. It will expand on the proficiency in the Spanish language and the knowledge of the Hispanic culture already acquired by students. The class will focus on reading, written proficiency and advanced grammar. We will review the grammar structures studied in SPA 131, 132 and 231 and also explore different cultural aspects with special emphasis on Hispanic Literature, Films, Debates and Composition.

**Class materials:** Students will find all the information needed for the class in D2L and other webpages. *Teatro* by George Cole.

**Pre-requisite:**  
C in SPA 231 or equivalent

**Course Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compositions/translations</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Oral presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100 pts.</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89 pts.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79 pts.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69 pts.</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60 pts.</td>
<td>E</td>
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Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities that need course adaptations or accommodations please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. In order to receive special accommodations, a student must present adequate documentation at the beginning of the semester.

Class Conduct

There is a University policy that forbids any eating and drinking in the classroom. These activities interfere with the normal functioning of the class, and therefore we should avoid them. Also, any unnecessary class disruption (such as speaking English or distracting other students from following class activities) may result in the total or partial loss of points in the class 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 0 (zero) points in your final participation grade.

Course Requirements

1-QUIZZES AND HOMEWORK: Late homework won’t be graded, since all assignments will be covered in class immediately after being turned in by the students. If a student is going to miss a class, he or she should turn in the homework due on that day in advance. We will have weekly quizzes based on the short stories we read. Quizzes are designed to check if the students have understood the material (not merely the vocabulary or the names of the characters) and if they have some interesting opinions about what they saw. There will be also grammar quizzes.

2-ATTENDANCE AND 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. Talk to your professor about any attendance problem.

This class is taught in Spanish, and the students need to speak Spanish during the class period. Speaking English during class or disrupting the class in any way will result in the loss of all the points in the quiz taken the week the misbehaving took place.

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 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 in every class and has answers to the questions asked by me 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.
-60 to 85 participation points: the student comes prepared to class, shows initiative and participates frequently. He or she pays attention to the explanations.

-50 to 60 participation points: the student is not well prepared for class and only participates if called by name.

-20 to 60 points: the student doesn't prepare for the class. He or she asks questions to other students instead of asking me when in doubt about my explanations. He or she answers rarely to my questions and doesn't pay enough attention to my explanations.

-0 to 20 points: the student doesn’t participate. He or she speaks English in class or diverts the attention of the other students.

Requesting the professor’s help via email or during office hours is a form of class participation. Remember though, that in order to pass the class you not only need to participate, but to master the information given in the class.

3-EXAMS: There will be a Final Exam, with exercises about the material we read, grammar and a composition. The dates for the written exam is specified in the syllabus.

4-ORAL PRESENTATION: One of the requirements of the class is giving an oral presentation about a cultural aspect of a Spanish speaking country. Every presentation will be at least fifteen minutes long. Props, videos, games and other materials are highly recommended. The presentation grade will be based not only on the correct use of Spanish, but on its originality and content. The last day to decide the topic of the Oral Presentation will be Oct 15th.

5-COMPOSITIONS: Every student will have to turn in THREE compositions along the semester on the topics assigned. Every composition will be at least two pages long (Font 12, double space). Students need to turn in a first draft that I will return with comments before the final version of the composition, which will be graded. In order to receive a decent grade, compositions need not only to be written in correct Spanish, but also have to be original and interesting. If a student doesn’t turn in three compositions he will fail the class with an F. Late compositions won’t be accepted under any circumstances.

6-MISSED EXAMS: In general, students won't be allowed to making up exams. If, however, 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 in the exam.
7-FINAL EXAM POLICY:

We will have the following policy regarding the final exam:

a) If a student has a grade average of 93 before the final exam, he or she doesn’t need to take the final to get an A in the class.

b) If:
-A student turns in all the homework on time
-He or she gets full credit in class participation
-The average grade in the Midterm Exam and the Oral Presentation is higher than an 85.

The final grade of that student will be no lower than his or her final exam grade.
This policy is designed to help the students who really improve during the course. They may have low grades during the first weeks and still make a good (or even excellent) final grade.

c) If a student doesn’t get a grade of C or higher in the final exam he will fail the class with an F.

Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2021

T Aug 24: Introducción al curso.
TH Aug 26: Ejercicio para determinar necesidades lingüísticas.

T Aug 31: Lectura y discusión de:
(https://www.insumisos.com/lecturasinsumisas/Identidad%20latinoamericana.pdf)

TH Sep 2: Práctica de traducción.

T Sep 7: Gramática y usos prácticos.
TH Sep 9: Práctica de traducción.

T Sep 14: Leer: La Indocumentada
TH Sep 16: Leer: La Indocumentada

T Sep 21: Discusión del fenómeno del Spanglish. Leer:
(http://digilib.phil.muni.cz/bitstream/handle/11222.digilib/113024/1_EtudesRomanesDeBrno_32-2002-1_9.pdf)
TH Sep 23: Práctica de traducción.

T Sep 28: Gramática y usos prácticos.
TH Sep 30: Gramática y usos prácticos.

T Oct 6: Práctica para el examen.
TH Oct 8: Examen Final.
**Program Learning Outcomes:** This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

**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, expository, 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 understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes though invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.

**Student learning outcomes:**

- Students will be exposed to and actively engage in discussions regarding songs, comics, videos, news, Internet materials, and readings from text that relate to the culture of places where Spanish is spoken.
- Students will use vocabulary dealing with the following themes in their writing and speaking: numbers, the calendar, time, interrogative words, weather, seasons, personality, the city, location, colors, clothing, family, physical traits, food.
- Students will be able to correctly utilize the following grammatical structures: articles, gender, number, present tense, future (verb + infinitive), adjective placement and agreement, ser and estar, direct object pronouns, indirect object pronouns, the verb gustar.
- Students will be able to communicate, in oral and written form, about what one normally does, where one lives, what one likes to do, and one’s family.
- Students will investigate very simple topics on the Internet in Spanish and record their findings.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All students in this class are expected to comply with university policies regarding academic honesty. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will be reported to the dean of his or her major school. All homework should be your own. Students are not allowed to use translation programs, native speakers, LRC workers or other students to assist them with assignments. Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty and will be dealt with according to university policy.

In accordance with University policy, students with disabilities who need accommodations are expected to initiate a meeting with the professor immediately upon registering with Disability Services to discuss how accommodations included on the Special Accommodations Request form will be provided. Students with disabilities who may have special needs and have not requested support services should seek assistance through Disability Services.