

## **SPECIFIC COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

**SPAN 3368.01 Conversational Spanish I**  
**Spring 2018**

### **3 CREDIT HOURS LECTURE**

**Professor:** Dr. Manuel Triano-López

**E-mail address:** mxt017@shsu.edu

**Departmental Phone Number:** (936) 294-1400

**Office:** Academic Building IV, Room 327

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 9:30am and 11:00am, and by appointment

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

None

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Emphasis is placed on extemporaneous speaking and conversation. Reading materials from Spanish speaking countries will be included as a basis for conversation and composition. This course cannot be taken for credit by native Spanish speakers. Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in SPAN 3361 or consent of Chair. Credit 3.

### **GENERAL GOALS (Optimal results):**

The course will achieve the goals by:

- (1) Using the target language, i.e., Spanish;
- (2) Exposing you to a variety of language structures, vocabulary, and cultural traditions; and
- (3) Promoting creative Spanish practice.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES (Optimal activities):**

- 1. Gaining factual knowledge.**
- 2. Learning to apply course material.**

### **STYLE**

This course has two delivery methods: (1) In-classroom instruction; and (2) Blackboard

### **EVALUATION/GRADES (Assessment)**

#### **Course components**

Participation: 15%

Homework: 10%

Culture (in-class presentations): 15%

Speaking Exams: 30%

Written Exams: 20%

Final Exam: 10%

#### **Grading scale**

100-90: A

89-80: B

79-70: C

69-60: D

59 and below: F

## GRADING COMPONENTS

### Participation

To improve your understanding of the content in this class, it is important that you participate *actively* and *in Spanish*. For this reason, repeated disengagements from in-class assignments (e.g., spending time on an electronic device to check information unrelated to the assignment) will lower your participation grade *substantially*, as will repeated unexcused absences and tardiness. Two instances of **tardiness** count as one unexcused absence. Your first two (2) absences will not incur any penalty on your participation grade, regardless of whether you can document these absences.

Additionally, late work resulting from **unexcused** absences will not be accepted for a grade. In the event of an excused absence, the assignment will be accepted for full credit, and will be due one class period after the student's return to class. Missed exams resulting from an excused absence must be taken one class period after the student's return (the student will take an alternate, but equivalent, version of the original exam.) Pre-existing travel plans are **not** a valid excuse for missing exams.

### Homework

To reinforce the grammatical, lexical (vocabulary), and cultural information taught in this class, you will complete a set of activities. Although your instructor will give you ample time to complete these activities, you should not wait until last minute to begin working on them. Your instructor will provide more specific details about these activities during the semester.

### Culture (in-class presentations)

You will give two 5-minute presentations on a topic related to Spanish/Latino culture. Be sure to obtain your instructor's approval before beginning to work on your presentation. Possible topics may include your favorite city (Madrid, Buenos Aires, etc.), your favorite painter (Picasso, Botero, etc.), or your experiences helping the local Spanish/Latino community (acting as a medical interpreter, teaching English as a foreign language, etc.). Before presenting your topics in class, be sure to upload your files to Blackboard by the deadlines specified on the weekly schedule below. Your uploads will help your instructor give you more detailed feedback on your effort.

### Speaking Exams

To assess your ability to communicate orally in Spanish within the range of the grammar, vocabulary and cultural information covered in this course, your instructor will administer **five** (5) speaking exams. On the date of each oral exam, your instructor will pair you with another student randomly to role-play a situation. You will have about **four minutes** to perform the activity. Your instructor will provide more guidance during the semester.

### (Written) Exams

There will be **five** written exams and a final exam. These exams will assess the breadth of your Spanish vocabulary and grammar, the level of your listening and reading skills in the language, and your knowledge of Spanish/Latino culture. The final exam will be comprehensive and cumulative. Only under the most exceptional circumstances will your instructor provide a make-up exam for the final. None of the exams will be curved. Study guides for each of these exams will help you in your preparation.

## INCOMPLETES

Only under the most extreme and exceptional circumstances will the Department of World Languages and Cultures consider a petition for an Incomplete. You will need to present appropriate documentation for the circumstances that have impaired your performance during the period of classes. A low grade in the course does not constitute sufficient grounds for an Incomplete.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All written work you turn in *must be your own*. NOT allowed: copying without acknowledging your sources; having another student, a tutor, or a friend proof and/or **correct** the work you are to turn in; and using electronic translation programs (e.g., Google Translate) to translate complete sentences and/or paragraphs. You may be asked to prove that something you have handed in is indeed your own work. Representing someone else's work as your own is an infraction of academic integrity and as such may result in serious academic sanctions.

For general, college-wide policies, please consult <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

### **No-late-submissions policy**

Because of the manageable workload, you must complete your assignments *on time* to ensure receiving credit for them. Invalid excuses include "forgetting," "having a busy schedule," "graduating next summer," or "being unaware" of the deadlines indicated below.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

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### WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

<b>Week 1 (Thursday, January 18)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Introduction to the course</li></ul>
<b>Week 2 (Tuesday, January 23—Thursday, January 25)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li><li>➤ Speaking practice</li></ul>
<b>Week 3 (Tuesday, January 30—Thursday, February 1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li><li>➤ Speaking practice</li></ul>
<b>Week 4 (Tuesday, February 6—Thursday, February 8)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Exam 1 on Tuesday, February 6</li><li>➤ Speaking Exam 1 on Thursday, February 8</li></ul>
<b>Week 5 (Tuesday, February 13—Thursday, February 15)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li><li>➤ Speaking practice</li></ul>
<b>Week 6 (Tuesday, February 20—Thursday, February 22)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Exam 2 on Tuesday, February 20</li><li>➤ Speaking Exam 2 (Chapter 10) on Thursday, February 22</li></ul>
<b>Week 7 (Tuesday, February 27—Thursday, March 1)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Culture presentation 1 on Tuesday, February 27 (first group) and Thursday, March 1 (second group)</li></ul>
<b>Week 8 (Tuesday, March 6—Thursday, March 8)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li><li>➤ Speaking practice</li></ul>

<b>Week 9 (Tuesday, March 13—Thursday, March 15)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Spring Recess</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10 (Tuesday, March 20—Thursday, March 22)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exam 3 on Tuesday, March 20</li> <li>➤ Speaking Exam 3 on Thursday, March 22</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11 (Tuesday, March 27—Thursday, March 29)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li> <li>➤ Speaking practice</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12 (Tuesday, April 3—Thursday, April 5)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Culture presentation 2 on Tuesday, April 3 (first group) and Thursday, April 5 (second group)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 13 (Tuesday, April 10—Thursday, April 12)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exam 4 on Tuesday, April 10</li> <li>➤ Speaking Exam 4 on Thursday, April 12</li> </ul>
<b>Week 14 (Tuesday, April 17— Thursday, April 19)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li> <li>➤ Speaking practice</li> </ul>
<b>Week 15 (Tuesday, April 24— Thursday, April 26)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Vocabulary, grammar, and cultural activities</li> <li>➤ Exam 5 on Thursday, April 26</li> </ul>
<b>Week 16 (Tuesday, May 1—Thursday, May 3)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Speaking Exam 5 on Tuesday, May 1</li> <li>➤ Final exam review</li> </ul>