

Tuesdays 6:00-8:50pm; 334 The Woodlands Center

Course Description: This course further develops and integrates your language skills (speaking, listening, writing, reading, and cultural knowledge). During this course, you will discuss a variety of topics in Spanish, become more aware of cross-cultural differences between Spanish and English, and manage a variety of interaction types. You can expect to expand your vocabulary and increase your grammatical precision. Recommended prerequisites for the course: a C or better in SPAN 3368 or instructor permission.

Style: This course meets once a week for in-class discussion. Materials for class discussion are on Blackboard. This course will be conducted exclusively in Spanish.

Communication: Email is the best method for contacting me, though you should check the syllabus to make sure any questions you have are not answered here. You should address me as Dr. Barker in written communication in order to maintain professionalism. Please allow up to 24 hours for email responses, or up to 48 hours on weekends. Be patient if you email after 8pm or before 8am. Please make sure to check your email regularly for last-minute information.

Dr. Maria Barker

ABIV 323

936.294.4584

mhb015@shsu.edu

Skype: mlhasler

Office hours: 11am-12pm M (ABIV 323)

4:30-5:30pm T/W (TWC 310)

By appointment (in person, by phone, via Skype)

University policies are found at <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>



A note on attendance, preparation, and participation: This is a conversation class. Attendance and participation are essential and, therefore mandatory. I do not expect perfect speaking, just prepared participation. Preparation includes reading assigned materials thoroughly and preparing written assignments. No late work is accepted. You may miss one class without penalty. **Each subsequent absence will result in a 3-point penalty on your FINAL grade.**

IDEA Essential Course Objectives

Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing (in Spanish)

Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity

Anticipated Course Outcomes



I use cross-cultural communication strategies to maintain conversations on a variety of simple, complex, and controversial topics. I can discuss reading assignments effectively.



I understand and respond to a wide variety of topics, ranging from simple, familiar discussions to complex, new ideas.



I free write for at least five minutes on various topics in class. Outside of class, I synthesize reading assignments to show I understand a topic.



I understand the majority of what I read for class, usually without resorting to a dictionary or an online translation tool.



I appreciate the diversity of Spanish-speaking cultures and make connections and comparisons to my own culture.

EVALUATION/GRADES: A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (59-0)	
Preparation	15%
Participation	35%
Media consumption log	25%
Presentation	25%

Attendance (3% off of FINAL GRADE for each absence): Simply put, you MUST attend class each week to do well in this course. You may miss ONE (1) class without penalty. Each subsequent absence will result in a 3% penalty on your overall course grade. Please be courteous and arrive/leave at the scheduled times. Excessive tardiness will negatively impact your participation grade.

Preparation (15%): Before each conversation session, you should complete assigned homework activities. These will include brief reading assignments, free writing activities, or microthemes. Additional assignment instructions and rubrics will be distributed in class and on Blackboard. This homework will generally be completed in 1-2 hours/week.

Participation (35%): This is a conversation class, therefore you MUST actively participate to pass this course. We will develop a participation rubric together. You and your instructor will evaluate your participation in each class session.

Media consumption log (15%): One of the best ways to improve your listening and reading skills is to regularly consume a variety of media (television, radio, newspapers, magazines, podcasts, blogs, etc...). You should spend a minimum of two ADDITIONAL hours a week consuming Spanish language media. You will log these hours and share them with the instructor each week.

Presentation (15%): In lieu of a final exam, you will prepare a presentation to be given during the last week of class. The topic will be of your choosing. Further information, including the rubric, will be given to you at a later date.

Make-up and extra credit opportunities: You may make up ONE (1) missed class by participating in three hours of Spanish language event(s). See the instructor for ideas. Other late work may be accepted at your instructor's discretion. **While there are limited extra credit opportunities (e.g., completing the course evaluation), they are not sufficient to rescue a failing grade.** Keep up with the course work to get the best grade possible.

LANGUAGE LEARNING SUCCESS TIPS: INCORPORATE SPANISH INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

The Perfect Language Learner

Every language student wants to know the secret of making the most progress in the shortest time.

What does the perfect learner do to excel in acquiring a foreign language?

SGI ST GEORGE INTERNATIONAL
THE LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS
www.stgeorges.co.uk
English School in Central London



1: Learn every day

Even when you are really tired, do some learning, even if it's only 5-10 mins. Never miss a chance to increase your knowledge. Use it, or lose it! Practice makes perfect.



2: Be motivated

What is your goal? Always think about your objective. You are learning because you want to achieve something. When you get there your life will be better. Always remember that, even when it's tough.

Success in remembering new vocabulary

Vocabulary book	86%
Mobile phone	74%
Flashcards	67%
No written record	21%



3: Record new vocabulary

To really learn a new word, you have to remind yourself of it 6 times over hours, days and weeks. Write down all your new vocab in a little book that you can always carry around with you. Or keep a record in your mobile - you always have it with you, don't you?



4: Read, read & read!

Read (in the foreign language) things that you like, not boring stuff. Notice new grammar patterns and important vocabulary. The more you read, the quicker you progress - it's as simple as that.



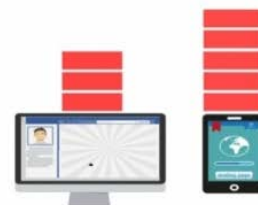
5: Be brave

Don't worry about small mistakes! No-one minds! When you learn new vocab or grammar, use it as soon as possible. If you are not 100% accurate, someone will correct you. Challenge yourself! Go for it!



6: Use technology

Listen to podcasts of native speakers
Do online tests checking your level & knowledge
Read the news in your target language
Watch videos in the target language
Comment on articles & interact with blog authors
Record yourself speaking with free audio software
Make your own flashcards with online flashcard generators
Play games in the target language
Keep a permanent record of your new vocab in GoogleDrive



A note on selected course topics and assignments: The conversation topics and assignments for this course were not selected at random. I chose them to help you achieve the learning outcomes that you see in the course description and the course outcomes graphic above. Each of the topics includes an element of culture from the Spanish-speaking world. Some of the topics will be familiar, so your conversations will be easier and more comfortable. Some of the topics will push you to expand your vocabulary and your grammar skills. Some of the topics are controversial and there might be disagreement. We will discuss strategies to help you manage all of these different types of conversation. Your assignments will help you integrate your language skills and will improve your vocabulary and grammar. At the end of the semester, you can look back and see how each of these discussion topics and assignments has helped you to improve your conversation skills!



Course Calendar Schedule: Subject to adaptation for instructional purposes

All At-home Assignments are accessed through Blackboard

Fecha	Tema; Actividades en clase	Lecturas; Actividades en casa	Fecha de entrega
23 enero	Introducción al curso Desarrollar rúbrica para medir la participación	Asignación de 'micro-tema' (lectura/escritura) Crear diario para grabar el consumo de los medios de comunicación	29 enero (11:59pm) 29 enero (11:59pm)
30 enero	<i>Small talk</i> vs. conversación	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Hoja de ejercicios (leer y contestar preguntas)	5 febrero (11:59pm) 6 febrero (en clase)
6 febrero	Diferencias intraculturales Solidaridad e independencia Poder, distancia social, imposición El uso de <i>tú</i> y <i>usted</i>	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Asignación de 'micro-tema' (lectura/escritura)	12 febrero (11:59pm) 12 febrero (11:59pm)
13 febrero	No hay clase – mira la película asignada*	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	19 febrero (11:59pm) 20 febrero (en clase)
20 febrero	Las relaciones intrapersonales La amistad El noviazgo	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	26 febrero (11:59pm) 27 febrero (en clase)
27 febrero	El concepto de <i>hogar</i> La estructura familiar El estatus de los niños	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	5 marzo (11:59pm) 6 marzo (en clase)
6 marzo	El sistema de salud Medicina moderna Medicina alternativa Medicina naturista	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Asignación de 'micro-tema' (lectura/escritura)	19 marzo (11:59pm) 19 marzo (11:59pm)
13 marzo	SPRING BREAK		
20 marzo	Salud mental Acceso a servicios de salud mental Representación de las enfermedades mentales	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	26 marzo (11:59pm) 27 marzo (en clase)
27 marzo	Las tradiciones en las fiestas La religión La comida La familia La Semana Santa	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Asignación de 'micro-tema' (lectura/escritura)	2 abril (11:59pm) 2 abril (11:59pm)
3 abril	Los conceptos de belleza Los colores y símbolos	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	9 abril (11:59pm) 10 abril (en clase)
10 abril	No hay clase – mira la película asignada*	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	16 abril (11:59pm) 17 abril (en clase)
17 abril	La muerte y la memoria	Entregar diario de consumo de los medios Lectura (escritura libre en clase)	23 abril (11:59pm) 24 abril (en clase)
24 abril	El sistema judicial El crimen La moralidad	No hay tarea – prepara la presentación final	1 mayo (en clase)
1 mayo	Presentación final		

*Las películas asignadas NO cuentan para el diario de consumo de los medios; si desean ver las películas en grupo(s), ¡adelante!