

Spanish 21G.711

Advanced Spanish Conversation & Composition: Perspectives on Technology and Culture

Spring 2018

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Develops language proficiency through the discussion of issues dealing with the social and cultural impact of technology on Hispanic societies. How does technological change affect communities, families and relationships, value systems and beliefs, education, work and the environment? What challenges do innovations in such fields as communication, transportation, life sciences, robotics, energy and environmental science pose? What are some of the ethical implications of technological decision-making? Emphasis on small group work, discussions, debates, simulations and games in order to improve fluency, expand and refine vocabulary and gain better control of problematic grammatical structures. Materials include journalistic and literary selections, films and online materials offering diverse perspectives.

Conducted entirely in Spanish. Pre-requisite: 21G.704 or permission of the instructor.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS: 1:00 -2:30 PM in Bldg.16-628

Margarita Ribas Groeger

Office: 14N-220

Office hours: Mondays 1-2:00 PM; Thursdays 2:30- 3:30 PM and by appointment

Phone: (617) 253-4778

E-mail: mgroeger@mit.edu

TEXTS:

- Short novel: ***Batallas en el desierto*** , José Emilio Pacheco. Ediciones Era, 1981 (Available at the MIT COOP).
- Selection of stories, articles and all other class materials can be accessed through links in the course Stellar website.

FILMS and SHORT FILMS: There will be 3 feature films plus several short films which you will watch outside of class. The feature films will be available in Plex TV.

Recommended :

- Grammar review text: **Manual de Gramática** (Eleanor Dozier and Zulma Iguina. 5ta/6ta edición) This is the same text used in Spanish IV and is available in the COOP.
- A good Spanish-English dictionary such as **Harper Collins Spanish Concise Dictionary** or an online dictionary: wordreference.com

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:




1. Class Attendance and Participation: 30% Regular attendance and active participation is an extremely important requirement for completing this course successfully. **Students will be evaluated daily on their preparation and participation in class** according to this [Criteria for Evaluating Class Participation](#). Students are responsible for preparing class materials (readings, videos, grammatical or vocabulary exercises) before class and according to the provided schedule.

Important: Since the emphasis of this class is on oral practice and this is impossible to make-up with extra work, **unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the final class grade.** For every two (2) unexcused absences there will be a 5% reduction of the final grade. Additionally, more than five (5) unexcused absences will result in an "F" in class participation. Exceptions require a letter from a medical doctor, a dean's excuse, or other extraordinary circumstances. In case of questions or anticipated problems, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor .

Tardiness: Repeated tardiness will also affect your final grade. **Three late arrivals** will count as **one absence.**

Computer and other electronic devices to be used for class related activities only.

2. Oral and Written Homework: 15%

- Oral practice and communication: Students will complete several oral assignments using **Voicethread** .
- There will be vocabulary and grammar practice exercises using the online and self-correcting tool, **Learnclick** . These exercises have to be completed according to the dates on the class program. A pencil icon  will indicate any written work that has to be handed in.

3. Compositions: (20%). Students will write **FOUR** (2 page, Font 12, double-spaced) compositions. The compositions will be graded on the basis of **2 drafts**. Students will revise the **first draft** using the correction key [Clave de corrección](#) and return it to their instructor for final grading. They will have **one week** to submit the second

draft of their composition. Both drafts must be handed in **on time**. Compositions handed in late will not receive full credit. If you need help typing accents and other diacritic marks on the computer, here are some instructions for Windows and Mac's: [Acentos y diacríticos](#).

4. Tests: 30%. There will be **TWO written** tests and **ONE oral** test on the topics discussed in class and using the relevant vocabulary and grammatical structures. There is **NO Final Exam** during Finals week.

5. Final Project: 5%. Students work individually or in groups (maximum 4) in an interactive project to present during the final week of the semester. Evaluation rubric: [Criterios de evaluación para la presentación](#).

GRADING: All grades (tests, compositions, class and final grades) are based on a traditional ten-point scale. Students are not in competition with each other; each student will receive the grade he or she earns.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: As a student in this course you are expected to complete your own work, to write your own assignments and abide by [MIT's ACADEMIC INTEGRITY](#) policies.

ENROLLMENT LIMIT AND SELECTION CRITERIA IN CASE OF OVER-ENROLLMENT. Enrollment is limited to 18 for pedagogical reasons. Preference will be given to pre-registered students, including pre-registered undergraduates who were cut from the same class the previous semester due to the enrollment cap. Please note that you have to attend the first day of class to maintain your preference level. In case of over-enrollment, preference will be given in the following order: concentrators, minors or majors, continuing students, juniors, sophomores, freshmen, seniors, and graduate students.