

Español 21G.712

SPANISH CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION

Fall 2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Speaking-intensive course designed for students who have finished Spanish IV (21G.704) or equivalent. The emphasis is on improving speaking and writing fluency using a variety of activities based on literary and journalistic selections, films and online materials. Small group work, class discussions, debates, simulations and games are used in order to expand students' vocabulary in a wide range of topics, as well as to improve command of the more problematic grammatical structures.

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

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TEXTS: All the class materials (readings, short films, vocabulary and grammar exercises) 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 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. It should center on a cultural or social issue relevant to the Hispanic world and

actively involve the rest of the class in discussion. Possible formats: a discussion panel, a debate, a press conference, a video, a game. Topics should be decided by the 10th week and approved by the instructor. 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.