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# twitter in a Spanish Conversation Course (And Maybe in Yours)

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Sacred Heart  
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twitter

IN A SPANISH CONVERSATION COURSE  
(AND MAYBE IN YOURS)

By Prof. Pilar Munday,  
College of Arts and Sciences

## But first, some important notions

A Tweet is a 140-character message posted via Twitter

A Retweet is someone else's Tweet that you chose to share with all of your followers

You follow people to read their tweets

People follow you to read your tweets

The # symbol, called a hashtag, is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet

# For example

**Barack Obama** ✓  
@BarackObama

This account is run by Organizing for Action staff. Tweets from the President are signed -bo.  
Washington, DC · barackobama.com

10,123 TWEETS    657,132 FOLLOWING    37,852,094 FOLLOWERS

Follow

# For example



The image shows a screenshot of three tweets from Barack Obama (@BarackObama) regarding a government shutdown. Each tweet includes a profile picture of Obama, his name and handle, the time since posted, the text of the tweet, and an 'Expand' link.

- 2h**  
**Barack Obama** @BarackObama  
"That vote could take place today. The shutdown would be over."  
—President Obama [OFA.BO/FTLirH](#) cc [@SpeakerBoehner](#)  
Expand
- 3h**  
**Barack Obama** @BarackObama  
It's time [@SpeakerBoehner](#) ended this shutdown. Tell him to  
[#JustVote: OFA.BO/NqxoJn](#)  
Expand
- 5h**  
**Barack Obama** @BarackObama  
"It hurts our credibility around the world. It makes us look like we  
don't have our act together." —President Obama on the [#shutdown](#)  
Expand

# What are students required to do?

Follow each other in the class & four native speakers from Spain

Follow famous people or institutions (that they choose)





# What are students required to do?

## Write ten tweets per week



# What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week



Include one Re-Tweet





# What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week



Include one Re-Tweet



Have a “conversation”

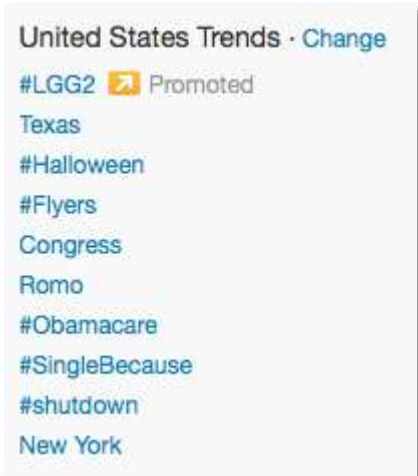


# How is it used?

To practice vocabulary (in class and outside)

To read native speakers' Tweets

To observe culture in action through Twitter's "trending topics" and popular hashtags



## How is it used?

But also:

To ask questions about the class

To collaborate

To keep practicing Spanish in an easy way

## How can you use it in your class?

Create a hashtag for your class

Ask students to tweet interesting links

Use Twitter as a backchannel during your lectures

# Example

Professor Jason Farman's course

American Studies 260:

American Culture in the Information Age

University of Maryland, College Park

Hashtag: **#amst260**

Students have to tweet DURING lectures.

Shelter the homeless



**Alex Rifkin** @riffycan

We perform different selves based on our cultural environment. That doesn't mean that we change who we are. #amst260

30 Sep

Expand



**Matthew Beinart** @mattbeinart

sites like tumblr warn users against allowing anonymous questions on their site, for the purpose of avoiding harsh comments #amst260

30 Sep

Expand



**Ben Wright** @Wrighty\_Bulger

#Amst260 getting a Facebook was like a right of passage in the transition from middle school to high school

2 Oct

from College Park, MD



**Alice Mercer** @aliceNwondrind3

I can't believe how much the MySpace website has changed since the last time I've been on it. #amst260

2 Oct

Expand



**Dez Wells** @Dez32Wells

The idea of Facebook being exclusive to only invite and college only at the start was genius by Mark Zuckerberg #amst260

2 Oct

Expand



**Grace Jones** @terpgirlAMST

#amst260 This is actually really interesting but also little bit frightening. [blogs.wsj.com/digits/2013/09...](http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2013/09...)

Hide summary

Reply Retweet Favorite

WSJ Wall Street Journal

**Facebook Woos TV Networks With Data - Digits - WSJ**  
Facebook says it will begin sending weekly reports to America's largest television networks, offering a glimpse of how much their shows are generating on the social network.

Ransom the captives

Bury the dead



# What did my students think of Twitter?



Why?

Because **just memorizing words isn't enough**, applying them to real parts of your day helps the words to stick in your head forever, not just for a quiz.

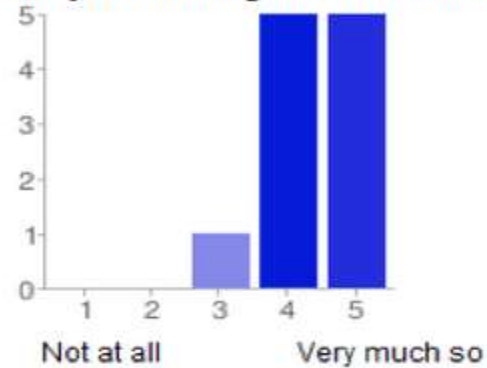
Twitter is something that **relates to our life** since it is similar to other **social networking sites** and it was **easy** to use.

I was able to see the different ways vocabulary words were used and **seeing it from someone else's perspective** and not just mine was very helpful.



# What did my students think of Twitter?

Did you like using Twitter this semester?



## Why?

I liked twitter because it allows you to **incorporate Spanish in your every day life**. It is easy to manage and really does help with your Spanish and using the vocabulary from the class.

I like it because it was a way to **continue thinking in spanish** outside of the classroom. Instead of only talking in spanish for 2 1/2 hours a day, it was continued throughout the week

I enjoyed Twitter because it was an **easy way to contact** my classmates and the professor. It also allowed me to practice my Spanish outside of the classroom and with my classmates. Twitter was also easy to use and I **recommend it for other Spanish classes** or just regular classes so that they can contact one another.



**¡¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!!**



**La profesora Munday**  
@SPCONV



**Pilar Munday**  
@mundaysa

