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SPNS 408.01: Spanish: Advanced Composition and Conversation

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SPNS408: SPANISH ADVANCED COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION (Spring 2019)

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., LA 249
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(Please e-mail me to schedule appointment)



Course Description

This course is designed to teach you how to **speak** and **write** better in Spanish. To help us do this, we will be covering the first seven chapters in the *Repase y escribe* textbook/workbook. This course then aims that students expand their **vocabulary** in specific semantic fields as well as the strengthening their knowledge and **use of grammar**. The specific grammatical topics that we will cover include the preterit and the imperfect, *ser* vs. *estar*, special verb constructions (*gustar*) pattern, pronoun constructions, *hace* and other constructions related to time, the subjunctive in noun clauses, in relative clauses, and in adverbial clauses. This material is contextualized within cultural readings in our textbook. We will also study the *distinciones léxicas* (problematic words and/or expressions) in each chapter of the book as well as elementary mistakes. In conjunction with this, we will also review how to write well-developed essays.

Prerequisites

Spanish 301 (Having taken SPNS 321 will also help)

Course Objectives

After this course, students can expect to have acquired the following:

- 1) An improved ability to communicate in Spanish at the advanced level (both orally and in writing)
- 2) The self-confidence to give an oral presentation in Spanish without using any written materials on a topic (chosen in consultation with the professor) related to the Hispanic world.
- 3) Mastery of vocabulary specific to the topics addressed in order to be able to discuss such topics and express opinions about them.
- 4) A thorough knowledge of all grammatical points mentioned in the course description.
- 5) Clarification of problematic expressions in Spanish (for example “time” can be expressed as “tiempo,” “hora,” “vez,” etc. depending on context)
- 6) Mastery of a number of errors that will not be acceptable for upper-division Spanish students.

Spanish 408 serves as the exit course in language skills for the Spanish major, academic and teaching tracks. The only prerequisite is SPNS 301-so the skill level of participants will vary from those who have just completed 301 to those who have completed all requirements for the major including a semester or two studying abroad in a Spanish speaking country.

Materials

1. *Repase y escriba. Curso avanzado de gramática y composición*. Séptima edición (**Students Book only**) Available at the UM Bookstore.
2. A Bilingual Dictionary, Spanish-English/English-Spanish (Collins, Simon & Schuster International, Larousse or Oxford).
3. Moodle website for class will include any other necessary materials (e.g., PowerPoint lectures, announcements and updates in course schedule (if necessary), and gradebook).

Course Requirements and Grading

In this class we will be using a point system. This means that for each assignment you will receive points. You can easily predict the performance on the course as the semester unfolds by adding up the points you have so far and compare that to the table below:

Grading scale

Letter grade	Points	Letter grade	Points
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Now, let's see which are the graded assignments and requirements:

- **Presentations (20 points of final grade):**
 - a) **Individual Oral Presentation: (10 points of final grade):**
 - b) **Oral Conversation in pairs: (10 points of final grade):**
- **Compositions (40 points of final grade):**
 - a) **Composición 1 (in-class) (10 points of final grade):**
 - **Re-write (10 points of final grade):**
 - b) **Composición 2 (at home) (10 points of final grade):**
 - **Re-write (10 points of final grade):**
- **Exams (30 points of final grade): INCLUDES DICTADO para evaluar ortografía, GRAMÁTICA y VOLABULARIO estudiados!!!**
 - a) **Written exam (10 points of final grade):**
 - b) **Written final exam (20 points of final grade):**
- **Active class participation and preparation (10 points of final grade):** Your participation is key to the success of this course.

Other Policies and Information

E-mail/Companion site/Moodle: All students must frequently access their email, the student companion site to the textbook, & our Moodle site.

Extra credit: There will be no extra credit assignments in this class.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. See: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Special Considerations and/or Disabilities: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Office hours: One of the best ways to take full advantage of learning in this course is by coming to my office hours. I am anxious to guide you in your academic pursuits. Take advantage of the hours listed above or email me for an appointment if those times do not work for you. If you come for help with the course materials, please bring your notes and prepare your questions in advance.

Cell-phone, Tablet, and Laptop Use: You may not use cell phones in class, and I would prefer that you do not use laptops or iPads either. Checking email, texting, facebook, etc. is distracting for you and for me. Besides, note taking on the computer would be very difficult in this class since you will be a lot of special symbols not readily available in computer keyboards (i.e. it's much faster by hand).

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