

SPANISH 3301 CONVERSATION

University of Memphis • Department of World Languages and Literatures

Spanish 3301 • Section 004 • Spring 2021 • MWF 9:10-10:05am • Jones Hall 226 & Zoom

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course, SPAN 3301 Conversation, takes a realistic, thematic approach to improving conversational Spanish. It is presented in 12 modules that include weekly conversational topics as well as short films to highlight contemporary elements of Hispanic culture. A strong emphasis is placed on cultural comparison and contrast so the student can relate the material to their own experience. This course is based on the understanding that language acquisition takes place through active use of the language. **Not intended for students with native or near-native proficiency.** Prerequisite and corequisite: SPAN 2020 or permission of the instructor.

SPECIAL NOTE: HYBRID FORMAT SPRING 2021

Hybrid Instruction combines face-to-face and online instruction into one cohesive learning experience. Face-to-face synchronous sessions, either on-ground or via Zoom, allow students to apply, practice and reinforce the material prepared and studied online asynchronously.

Due to circumstances related to COVID-19, this course is delivered in a hybrid instructional format to ensure an equitable, inclusive, and safe learning experience for all students, and therefore students may attend class on-ground or virtually via Zoom. Synchronous meetings will occur at the regularly scheduled times on Mondays and Wednesdays for conversation, discussion and application of material. On Fridays, students will complete asynchronous activities such as readings, quizzes, exams and online discussion via eCourseware according to the due dates listed in the course calendar.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this course is to develop ACTFL (American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages) intermediate mid speaking and listening skills in Spanish while deepening the awareness and appreciation for Hispanic/Latinx culture. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Discuss various topics regarding Hispanic culture and history
- ✓ Attain an intermediate mid proficiency level when listening/speaking Spanish
- ✓ Analyze cultural practices and historical events from the Spanish-speaking world
- ✓ Build vocabulary through vocabulary activities and contextualized readings
- ✓ Use familiar and newly acquired vocabulary in daily conversation and communication
- ✓ Acquire cultural knowledge through short films, conversations with native speakers and class discussions
- ✓ Interact in role-play scenarios using level-appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures

TEXTBOOK

- ✓ Joan Brown, Carmen Martín Gaité. *Conversaciones creadoras: Mastering Spanish Conversation, 4th edition*. ISBN: 978-1285837420. Available from the University Bookstore at 901.678.2011 and online at [Cengage.com](https://www.cengage.com). eBook rental highly recommended.

GRADE COMPONENTS

- ✓ Participation & Attendance 20%
- ✓ Homework 10%
- ✓ Cortometrajes 6%
- ✓ LinguaMeeting (6 x 4%) 24%
- ✓ Flipgrid Discussions 10%
- ✓ Role-play scenarios (2 x 7.5%) 15%
- ✓ Exams (2 x 7.5%) 15%

Participation & Attendance (20%)

Success in learning a world language is directly related to the amount of time the student spends in contact with the target language. Language learning is a cumulative process that requires daily attendance and active class participation; therefore, SPAN 3301 being a conversation course, attendance and active participation are crucial components to student success. Considering the varied circumstances as a result of COVID-19, our class will meet in a small group setting in person and/or online. **As per University Policy, students are expected to be available during the days and times in the official schedule of the Registrar.** If students are not able to attend class in person, they should attend the synchronous session remotely via Zoom or contact the instructor for alternative accommodations to make up the missed class. Expected class participation includes coming to class prepared, being attentive and actively engaged, volunteering often, answering and asking questions frequently, responding in class in complete sentences and demonstrating strong effort throughout the semester. Students are expected to actively contribute to class and group discussions **always in Spanish**. Failure to actively participate in class and/or frequent and disruptive use of English will result in a deduction of the student's participation grade.

Homework (10%)

Students will complete homework exercises according to the course calendar by the due dates indicated. Exercises include but are not limited to vocabulary building, grammar review, and reading and listening comprehension. Homework will be submitted in eCourseware.

Cortometrajes (6%)

Students will view and analyze six (6) short films over the course of the semester to practice listening comprehension, expand cultural knowledge and prepare for discussion both in class, in the online discussion board on Flipgrid and with LinguaMeeting native coaches. Written analyses will be submitted in eCourseware.

LinguaMeeting (6 sessions x 4% = 24%)

Students will purchase six (6) sessions of LinguaMeeting to practice their conversational skills with a language coach, native speaker of Spanish, for six 30-minute coaching sessions throughout the semester. Topics for the coaching sessions will align with the short films viewed for class. Session availability opens and closes for each session according to specific dates on the course calendar. Note all session dates that you choose, as they are your responsibility. Remember that LinguaMeeting is *not* a tutoring service, rather a program to help you develop oral proficiency so that you are able to speak Spanish with confidence.

Students are permitted *one* LinguaMeeting make-up session over the course of the semester, and it must be made up during the same availability window as the original session. After the session due date, the topic will change, so it is necessary to complete the make-up before the session due date. If a student schedules a make-up session after the session due date, they must prepare to discuss topics from both the missed session *and* the current session.

Flipgrid Discussions (10%)

Each week students will interact with classmates in the virtual discussion board platform, Flipgrid, on a variety of topics related to course content to further develop their oral proficiency in Spanish. Students will post one original video responding to discussion questions each week by Wednesday and follow-up with at least two (2) videos on classmates' posts with meaningful comments, questions, ideas and/or interactions Friday. Online discussions are not graded for accuracy, rather meaningful and thorough contribution to the weekly discussion.

Role-play Scenarios (15%)

Students will participate in partner role-play scenarios selected at random from the *Escenas* section of the text to showcase their speaking skills, one at midterm and one at the end of the semester. Role-play scenarios will be prepared and practiced in advance but will not be scripted to encourage spontaneity and natural conversation. Students will be evaluated individually on their ability to express themselves clearly, use level-appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures and their efforts to pronounce the sounds of Spanish correctly.

Exams (15%)

Students will complete two exams, one midterm and one final (not cumulative) to demonstrate their comprehension of course material. Exercises will include listening and reading comprehension, vocabulary and grammar.

COURSE TOPICS

The course is divided into four units, each of which has three modules including cultural readings, key vocabulary with exercises, a grammar review and additional comprehension activities.

- ✓ Unit 1: Los viajes y el transporte
 - Module 1: La geografía y el turismo
 - Module 2: Los aeropuertos y el transporte
 - Module 3: Los automóviles y la seguridad vial
- ✓ Unit 2: Las familias, las amistades y la vida diaria
 - Module 4: La comida y las amistades
 - Module 5: La familia y el entretenimiento en casa
 - Module 6: El comercio y la seguridad ciudadana
- ✓ Unit 3: La educación, la salud y los deportes
 - Module 7: La educación y las profesiones
 - Module 8: La salud y la enfermedad
 - Module 9: Los deportes profesionales y de aficionados
- ✓ Unit 4: La cultura, los empleos y la vivienda
 - Module 10: Los eventos culturales y la vida social
 - Module 11: Las telecomunicaciones y los empleos
 - Module 12: La vivienda y las zonas residenciales

GRADING SCALE

- ✓ **A:** Outstanding, excellent quality work earns an A, far exceeding what is expected (superior).
- ✓ **B:** Very good, high quality work earns a B, goes slightly beyond what is expected (above average).
- ✓ **C:** Competent, satisfactory work earns a C, meeting what is expected (average).
- ✓ **D:** Acceptable, adequate work earns a D, needs improvement to meet expectations (below average).
- ✓ **F:** Unacceptable, unsatisfactory work; demonstrates little if any effort and/or understanding (failing).

97-100: A+

93-96.99: A

90-92.99: A-

87-89.99: B+

83-86.99: B

80-82.99: B-

77-79.99: C+

73-76.99: C

70-72.99: C-

67-69.99: D+

60-66.99: D

0-59.99: F

COURSE POLICIES

Make-ups and extensions

No make-ups or extensions are allowed on any assigned work. If an emergency prevents you from completing any work, you **must** have valid **written documentation** to justify your excuse including your name and other pertinent information. Examples include: a doctor's note, a court citation, a published funeral notice, or a police report. Non-acceptable documentation could include: attendance to a wedding or other social event, early travel arrangements, employer related requirements, a drug prescription, a routine doctor's appointment. Please email me your written documentation, using the University of Memphis email, no later than a week after the assignment due date. If the excuse is valid, it will not affect your grade.

Technology Requirements

The following is a list of the minimum requirements to use our learning management system. Some courses will have more advanced requirements.

- ✓ Access to a computer.
- ✓ Access to a microphone to be able to chat and record your voice for certain activities.
- ✓ Access to a camera to be able to chat and record yourself for certain activities.
- ✓ Access to a reliable, high-speed Internet connection (DSL or Cable).
- ✓ Test your device to ensure it is compatible with our LMS (Learning Management System) using the [System Check Wizard](#).
- ✓ Open PDF files using the free downloadable PDF software.
- ✓ Access Flash-based content with [Adobe Flash Player](#) (free).

- ✓ Use Microsoft Office for document creation (available for students via <http://umapps.memphis.edu/>)
- ✓ Play media content with [Real Player](#) (free), [QuickTime](#) (free), or [Windows Media Player](#)(free).

CAMPUS POLICIES

Academic integrity

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class in addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional disciplinary procedures. Expectations for academic integrity and student conduct are described in detail on the website of the Office of Student Accountability, see section on [Academic Integrity](#).

Student Accommodations

The University of Memphis values diversity, and, therefore, students with diverse learning preferences and needs are welcome in this course. You are encouraged to speak with the instructor privately if there are aspects of instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. If barriers are preventing anyone with a temporary injury or a physical, mental, or cognitive condition from participating fully in this course, please contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to submit an official request for course accommodations. You may contact DRS by calling 901.678.2880, emailing drs@memphis.edu or visiting 110 Wilder Tower.

Student Resources

Students who need additional resources can visit the website of the [Dean of Students Office](#).

COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy – Masks and Social Distancing

All students, faculty and staff will wear masks in all public spaces, including our classroom per the COVID-19 policy. The first time a student enters a classroom without wearing a face covering, the student will be asked to leave the class until they return with a covering. Further violations will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability. Students who repeatedly or flagrantly violate these community expectations may be referred for discipline under the Student Code and, if appropriate, immediately removed from campus by the Dean of Students.

Student Health

Students who are experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing or a higher than normal temperature should inform the instructor by email so they can be excused from class and should stay home. Students should contact their health care provider or the [Student Health Center](#). Students who have a positive COVID-19 test should contact the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@memphis.edu.

Religious Observance

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with their instructor, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements, prior to the absence, for making up missed work.

Library, Tutoring, and Other Resources

Links to library materials (such as electronic journals, databases, interlibrary loans, digital reserves, dictionaries, encyclopedias, maps, and librarian support) and Internet resources needed by learners to complete online assignments and as background reading must be included in all courses. The myMemphis portal system, eCampus Student tab provides access to University library and tutorial services. The tutoring link in the course navigation bar on eCourseware provides access to free online tutoring through UpSwing tutoring. Other support services for current UofM students are available at <https://www.memphis.edu/students/>.

Sexual Misconduct and Domestic Violence Policy

The University of Memphis is committed to ensuring equality in education and eliminating all acts of sexual misconduct from its campus. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Campus policy establishes procedures for responding to Title IX-related allegations of sexual misconduct. Complaints can be reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE). You may contact OIE by phone at 901.678.2713 or by email at oiem@memphis.edu. Complaints can be submitted online at [File a Complaint](#). OIE's office is located at 156 Administration Building.

Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

University policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment based on protected characteristics and classes. Complaints of discrimination and harassment can be reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE). You may contact OIE by phone at 901.678.2713 or by email at oiem@memphis.edu. The full text of the policy can be found at [GE2030 - Non-Discrimination and Antiharassment](#).

Tobacco Use Policy (UM1738)

Tobacco use is not permitted in any U of M-owned or leased property. This includes all grounds, vehicles, and buildings owned or leased by U of M. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors of U of M and is in effect 24 hours a day, year-round. This policy applies to all forms of tobacco products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff as well as smokeless electronic cigarettes and other similar devices. Violations of this policy by students should be brought to the attention of Judicial Affairs.

Children on Campus (UM1645)

Presence in classrooms is restricted to properly enrolled students or visitors with legitimate purpose, who may be adults or minors. Instructors of record are responsible for ensuring that individuals who attend their classes are properly enrolled or have been invited for the purpose of making special announcements, guest lecturing, or other authorized reasons. Instructors are also responsible for addressing situations when unauthorized individuals attend their classes.

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Technical Support

Call the Helpdesk: 901-678-8888

[Online Helpdesk](#)