

SPANISH 3303 COMPOSITION

University of Memphis • Department of World Languages and Literatures
Spanish 3303 • Section 003 • Spring 2021 • MWF 10:20-11:15am • Jones Hall 226 & Zoom
Dr. Brianna Butera • bjbutera@memphis.edu • Office Hours: MW 11:30-1:00pm & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for advanced intermediate students of Spanish, the goal of this beginner composition course is to put grammar into practice to develop high intermediate writing skills. Students learn to use the multi-step composition process to brainstorm and outline ideas *before* writing, compose a rough draft, and then revise and edit with the help of peers and tutors before publishing a final draft. Compositions are analyzed to identify and avoid frequent grammatical errors and to avoid interference from English. **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 from 10:20-11:15am in small groups of no more than 8 students for conversation, discussion and application of material. On Fridays, students will complete asynchronous activities such as readings, quizzes, exams and writing assignments via eCourseware according to the due dates listed in the course calendar.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this course is to develop writing skills by putting grammar into practice. By the end of the semester students will:

- ✓ Produce compositions based on the process approach to writing (brainstorm, outline, rough draft, revision and final draft).
- ✓ Critique peer compositions based on a demonstration of level-appropriate grammatical competency, vocabulary, and course content.
- ✓ Revise and publish five compositions including an autobiography, description, narration, narration with dialogue and exposition.
- ✓ Discuss reading and listening selections about culture relevant to composition topics.
- ✓ Expand vocabulary, grammatical competency, and cultural competency via selected course reading and listening selections.

TEXTBOOK

- ✓ Febles, Jorge & Carolyn Harris. *Por Escrito: De la palabra a la composición, second edition*. Pearson. ISBN: 978-0205646982. Available from the University Bookstore at 901.678.2011 and online.

GRADE COMPONENTS

- ✓ Participation & Attendance 10%
- ✓ Homework 7.5%
- ✓ Literature & Podcasts 7.5%
- ✓ Grammar Quizzes (5 x 2%) 10%
- ✓ Compositions (5 x 12%) 60%
- ✓ Final Presentation 5%

Participation & Attendance (10%)

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, attendance and active participation are crucial components to student success in SPAN 3303. 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 (7.5%)

Students will complete homework exercises according to the course calendar by the due dates indicated. Exercises from the textbook will be assigned for homework and completed in eCourseware. Homework will be turned in and evaluated in Dropbox.

Literature and Podcasts (7.5%)

Students will read selections from CommonLit and listen to podcast episodes which correspond to unit themes and complete follow-up assignments assessing their comprehension. CommonLit readings and assignments will be submitted and assessed in CommonLit, and podcast assignments will be submitted and assessed in eCourseware.

Grammar Quizzes (5 x 2% = 10%)

Students will complete grammar quizzes covering topics from all five modules to assess their comprehension and application of course material. Quizzes will be assigned and assessed in eCourseware.

Compositions (5 x 12% = 60%)

Throughout the course of the semester, students will write five 300-375-word high quality (not quantity) compositions according to various topics: autobiography, description, narration, narration with dialogue and argumentation. All compositions will be composed, edited and revised using the 5 steps in the writing process: brainstorm, outline, rough draft, revision (peer review and tutor review) and final draft (*lluvia de ideas, esquema, borrador, revisión y versión final*). Each step is important and will be included in the evaluation of the overall writing assignment. Compositions I-IV will use the following weight distribution. For the fifth and final composition, students will be expected to apply all steps of the writing process **on their own** and collaborate with peers and tutors to turn in a polished final draft worth the entire 12%. Detailed composition rubrics are available on eCourseware. Each component of the writing process will be uploaded to Dropbox.

Compositions I-IV (4 x 12% = 60%)

- Brainstorm 1%
- Outline 1%
- Rough draft 4%
- Peer review 2%
- Tutor review 1%
- Final draft 3%

Composition V Final draft %

Using online translators for entire sentences or paragraphs is **strictly prohibited** and violates the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) (see section on Academic Integrity). A composition that shows advanced structures that we have not seen in the course or evidence of use of a translation device or external help from a friend, family member, etc. will receive a lower score since this will reflect at least one of the following (a) the student has used an online translator, (b) the student has plagiarized the composition, or (c) the student has not written his/her own composition. You are only permitted to use a good online dictionary such as [Word Reference](#) to find words that you do not know. The written assignments must demonstrate material covered during the semester (grammar, vocabulary, etc.) according to composition instructions.

Final Presentation

To conclude the semester, students will translate their writing skills to presentational format by creatively designing a final presentation. Students will use attractive visuals and images to enhance the ideas communicated in the presentation. More guidelines and a rubric will be provided toward the end of the semester. The presentation will be turned in to Dropbox.

COURSE TOPICS

- ✓ **Module 1: Autobiography** Students work through the preliminary chapter of the text to produce, revise, edit and publish an original autobiographical sketch using simple sentences.

- ✓ **Module 2: Description** Students work through chapter one of the textbook to produce, revise, edit and publish an original descriptive composition about a person, object or place using simple and complex sentences.
- ✓ **Module 3: Narration** Students work through chapter two of the text to produce, revise, edit and publish an original narrative composition in the past tense about a place they have visited, an event, an activity, a holiday, a vacation or a celebration, or another experience in which they participated.
- ✓ **Module 4: Narration with Dialogue** Students work through chapter three of the text to produce, revise, edit and publish an original narrative composition including dialogue using subjunctive tense which highlights use of expressing wishes, influence and doubt.
- ✓ **Module 5A-C: Argumentative Exposition** Students work through chapter four of the text to produce, revise, edit and publish an original argumentative exposition using conditional sentences which reflect the student’s ability to think critically and offer evidence about a certain topic.

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
Updated January 7, 2020.

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 oie@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 oie@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](#)