

Advanced Grammar/ Writing Syllabus

SPAN 4307-001

Course Information

Course Description

SPAN 4307 is an advanced Spanish grammar course that focuses on special problems in Spanish grammar pertaining to perterite and imperfect, "ser" and "estar"; special verb constructions; subjunctive, definite, indefinite articles; writing styles; vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. This course is based on the understanding that second language acquisition takes place through active use of the language.

Course Objectives

The overall goal of this course is to gain a fuller grasp of Spanish Grammar and to further develop an advanced level of Spanish oral and written production while deepening the awareness and appreciation for Hispanic/Latino culture. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze various forms of literature genres
- Attain an advanced proficiency level when writing in Spanish
- Further develop proper Spanish grammar and style in writing
- Build new vocabulary through contextualized readings
- Use familiar and newly acquired vocabulary in written communication
- Acquire cultural knowledge through cinema and class discussion

Prerequisites

This course is recommended for the Spanish major and minor and a minimum of three 3000-level Spanish courses or equivalent is a prerequisite.

Course Topics

There are seven (7) modules or chapters within this course. All modules will be open from the beginning of the semester in case some students want to progress faster; however, all students need to complete the modules in order and do all assigned activities and assessments of one module before moving to the next one.

- Module 1: Capítulo 1
- Module 2: Capítulo 2
- Module 3: Capítulo 3
- Module 4: Capítulo 4
- Module 5: Capítulo 5
- Module 6: Capítulo 6
- Module 7: Capítulo 7

Specific Course Requirements

In order to be successful in this course, students will need to make sure that you can access eCourseware and that you have the appropriate tools to work within it. This will require:

1. Access to a computer.
2. Access to a microphone to be able to chat and record your voice for certain activities. Remember that most computers have microphones.
3. Access to a camera to be able to chat and record yourself for certain activities. Remember that most computers and phones have cameras.
4. Use of a headphone with mic to be able to chat and record your voice for certain activities (purchase a headphone with mic).
5. Access to a reliable, high-speed Internet connection (DSL or Cable).
6. Test your device to ensure it is compatible with our LMS (Learning Management System) using the System Check Wizard
7. Open PDF files using the free downloadable PDF software.

8. Use Microsoft Office for document creation (available for students via umapps.memphis.edu opens in new window).
9. Play media content with [Real Player](#) opens in new window (free), [QuickTime](#) opens in new window (free), or [Windows Media Player](#) opens in new window (free).

Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

Required Textbooks and Materials

Repase y escriba: Curso avanzado de gramática y composición 6th edition by María Canteli Dominicis and John J. Reynolds.

Hardware and Software Requirements

The minimum requirements can be found at [Technical Requirements](#) opens in new window

Assessment and Grading

Testing Procedures

The midterm and final exams as well as the quizzes will be completed online. No proctor will be needed for any of the quizzes or tests. However, remember that both tests will be timed, so you will only have 60 minutes to complete each test (midterm and final). Once you open each test, you must complete it since you can only open it once.

All oral assignments will be presented via Zoom. The instructor will grade and provide feedback for each assessment up to a week after the due date of the assessment's submission. Students should check, print, and complete the items inside the Weekly Schedule daily. Missing the due dates will significantly lower the grade of students.

Grading Procedure

Below, you have a breakdown of the course grades and a detailed explanation of all course components.

GRADE COMPONENTS

- Orientación: 4%
- ¡Preséntate!: 2%
- Prueba de orientación: 2%
- Chat Sessions (12): 18%
- Lectura (7): 7%
- Interpretación (6): 6%
- Sección Gramatical (7): 7%
- Sección Léxica (6): 6%
- Distinciones (6): 6%
- Para escribir mejor (6): 6%
- Composiciones (6): 12%
- Películas (2): 6%
- Ensayo Final: 5%
- Entrevista Oral: 5%
- Examen Midterm: 6%
- Examen Final: 6%
- Encuesta de fin de semestre (Bonus): +1%

ORIENTATION ASSIGNMENTS (4%)

There are two (2) short assignments within this category: "¡Preséntate!" (1%) and "Prueba de orientación" (2%).

- The objective of "¡Preséntate!" is making sure that students get to know each other since the beginning of class. Instruction for this assignment can be found within the Getting started module. To submit this assignment, students will need to go to Communication/Discussion.
- The objective of the "Prueba de orientación" is to ensure that students have read the material inside the Orientation module. Understanding the class policies and procedures is essential to succeed in a hybrid course. That is why students

need to understand the Orientation section before they start working on the assignments. The Orientation Quiz can be found inside eCourseware/Assessment/Quizzes.

12 CHAT SESSIONS (18%)

Attendance to Zoom meetings is a crucial component to be successful in this class. There will be two Zoom meetings per module (or one per week): On the first meeting we will discuss the reading and in the second one, we will complete grammar exercises from the textbook and clarify any doubts concerning the course.

- **Participation** Students are expected to actively contribute to class and group discussions both by asking and by answering questions. Participation also includes using the target language of the course, i.e., Spanish. Failure to actively participate in the class will result in the deduction of the student's grade.

- **Attendance:** Students will be required to attend a Zoom meeting once per week to participate in class discussions. Being absent from Zoom meetings, connecting late, leaving the meeting early, and regularly entering and leaving the meeting while class is in session will affect the student's grade.

NOTE: Students will meet in a small group setting rather than as a whole class. The meetings will be held via the Zoom platform during the official class times. The instructor will assign the small groups in the first week of classes and each group will meet on different days. It's important for students to know what days they are meeting and to follow their assigned meeting schedule throughout the semester. All Zoom meeting dates can be found in the Weekly Schedule inside the Orientation Module.

- **Attendance and Tardiness Policy**

- Weekly attendance is compulsory and expected.
- Every 3 times a student comes late to the meeting counts as 1 absence.
- Excused Absences require official documentation. Examples of a valid excuse include an official doctor's note, an official court citation, a

published funeral notice, or an official police report. These documents must state clearly the date (and time if possible).

- Non-acceptable documentation includes attendance to a wedding or other social event, travel arrangements, employer-related requirements, a drug prescription, a routine doctor's appointment. I
- 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.

7 LECTURAS (7%)

There will be a total of seven (7) Reading Quizzes (one per module) that students must complete. The objective of these quizzes is to make sure that students have a better understanding of the reading before having the Chat Session in which they will discuss the comprehension and interpretation questions orally.

6 INTERPRETACIONES (6%)

There will be a total of six (6) Interpretation Dropbox Assignments (modules 1-6) that students have to complete. These assignments contain the interpretation questions that students will use when discussing the reading during the Chat Sessions.

7 SECCIONES GRAMATICALES (7%)

There will be a total of seven (7) Grammar Quizzes (one per module) that students must complete. The objective of these quizzes is to make sure that students practice and understand the grammar concepts covered in the chapter.

6 SECCIONES LÉXICAS (6%)

There will be a total of six (6) Vocabulary Assignments (modules 1-6) that students have to complete. These assignments contain vocabulary exercises that will help students explore the etymology and usage of certain Spanish lexicon.

6 DISTINCIONES (6%)

There will be a total of six (6) Distinciones Quizzes (modules 1-6) that students must complete. The objective of these quizzes is to explore Spanish verbs and expressions that can be confusing for students by clarifying their usage, rules, and exceptions.

6 PARA ESCRIBIR MEJOR (6%)

There will be a total of six (6) Writing Quizzes (modules 1-6) that students have to complete. These quizzes focus on various aspects that are useful when writing in Spanish. They will help students become better writers by improving their writing style.

6 PARA ESCRIBIR MEJOR (12%)

There will be a total of six (6) Compositions (modules 1-6) that students have to write. These writing activities will help students deepen their knowledge of the unit's theme by researching a particular topic and will help students practice their skills in the four main types of writing: expository, descriptive, persuasive, and narrative

PELÍCULAS (6%)

Students will watch two (2) movies this semester and complete a reaction in a journal entry for each one of them inside the discussion board.

ENSAYO FINAL (5%):

Students will be given a topic and they will write a two-page essay about it at the end of the semester. Rubrics will be provided in the future.

ENTREVISTA ORAL (5%)

At the end of the semester, students will have an individual oral interview with the instructor via Zoom in which they will talk about the topics discussed throughout the course. Students must speak exclusively in Spanish and be ready to answer questions about their experience in the course as well as their plans for their future. No make-ups or extensions are allowed.

EXÁMENES (16%)

There will be two (2) tests in this course. The Midterm will cover the first three chapters (1-3) and the Final Exam will cover the last three chapters (4-6). Each test may include vocabulary activities, grammar exercises, comprehension questions, listening activities, and one reading comprehension exercise. Students will have **ONE ATTEMPT** to complete each test. Students also should bear in mind that once they open the test, they need to finish it. Therefore, students should make sure to set 60 minutes aside to complete each test. No make-ups or extensions are allowed.

EXTRA CREDIT: ENCUESTA DE FIN DE SEMESTRE (+1%)

There will be only one opportunity to receive extra credit in this course. In order to receive this extra point on the final grade, students must complete the End-of-the-Semester Survey, inside Assessment/Surveys.

Grading Scale

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+

63-66.99: D

60-62.99: D

0-59.99: F

Assignments and Participation

Assignments and Projects

Here is a list of assignments for the course. Below you can find the deadline for each assignment.

ORIENTATION MODULE (DUE AUGUST 21)

- ¡Preséntate! (Discussions)
- Prueba de Orientación (Quizzes)
- Orientation Chat Session

MODULE 1 (DUE SEPTEMBER 2)

- Lectura 1 (Quizzes)
- Interpretación 1 (Dropbox)
- Sección Gramatical 1 (Quizzes)
- Sección Léxica 1 (Dropbox)
- Distinciones 1 (Quizzes)
- Para escribir mejor 1 (Quizzes)
- Composición 1 (Dropbox)

MODULE 2 (DUE SEPTEMBER 16)

- Lectura 2 (Quizzes)
- Interpretación 2 (Dropbox)
- Sección Gramatical 2 (Quizzes)
- Sección Léxica 2 (Dropbox)
- Distinciones 2 (Quizzes)
- Para escribir mejor 2 (Quizzes)
- Composición 2 (Dropbox)

MODULE 3 (DUE SEPTEMBER 30)

- Lectura 3 (Quizzes)
- Interpretación 3 (Dropbox)
- Sección Gramatical 3 (Quizzes)

- Sección Léxica 3 (Dropbox)
- Distinciones 3 (Quizzes)
- Para escribir mejor 3 (Quizzes)
- Composición 3 (Dropbox)
- Película 1 (Discussions)
- Examen Midterm (Quizzes)

MODULE 4 (DUE OCTOBER 14)

- Lectura 4 (Quizzes)
- Interpretación 4 (Dropbox)
- Sección Gramatical 4 (Quizzes)
- Sección Léxica 4 (Dropbox)
- Distinciones 4 (Quizzes)
- Para escribir mejor 4 (Quizzes)
- Composición 4 (Dropbox)

MODULE 5 (DUE OCTOBER 28)

- Lectura 5 (Quizzes)
- Interpretación 5 (Dropbox)
- Sección Gramatical 5 (Quizzes)
- Sección Léxica 5 (Dropbox)
- Distinciones 5 (Quizzes)
- Para escribir mejor 5 (Quizzes)
- Composición 5 (Dropbox)

MODULE 6 (DUE NOVEMBER 11)

- Lectura 6 (Quizzes)
- Interpretación 6 (Dropbox)
- Sección Gramatical 6 (Quizzes)

- Sección Léxica 6 (Dropbox)
- Distinciones 6 (Quizzes)
- Para escribir mejor 6 (Quizzes)
- Composición 6 (Dropbox)
- Película 2 (Discussions)
- Examen Midterm (Quizzes)

LAST ASSIGNMENTS MODULE (DUE NOVEMBER 20)

- Ensayo Final (Dropbox)
- Entrevista Oral ([Zoom: Wednesday, November 18](#))
- Lectura 7 (Quizzes)
- Sección Gramatical 7 (Quizzes)
- Encuesta del fin del semestre (Surveys)

Punctuality

Students must complete all assignments and assessments in the course by the deadlines indicated in the section "Weekly Assignments". Students will also need to be on time and ready to participate when attending their Chat Sessions meetings via Zoom.

NOTE: Students will meet on different days. The instructor will assign the small groups in the first week of classes. It's important for students to know what days they are meeting and to follow their assigned meeting schedule throughout the semester.

Course Ground Rules

In order to be successful in this course, students must also be familiar with the dynamics of the course. This comprises that students will:

- Participate in all discussions and speak exclusively in Spanish
- Learn how to navigate eCourseware and keep abreast of course announcements

- Use the assigned university e-mail address rather than a personal e-mail address
- Complete all assignments and assessment on time
- Address technical problems immediately
- Observe course etiquette always

Guidelines for Communication

EMAIL

- Do not use the e-mail inside e-Courseware but the official UofM e-mail
- Always include a subject line and the class section.
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments without permission.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.
- Respect the privacy of other class members

DISCUSSION GROUPS

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion.
- Be a lurker then a discussant.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather than starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of others' ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Web Resources

[Columbia Guide to Online Style by Janice R. Walker and Todd Taylor opens in new window](#) (2nd Edition)

[Citation Styles Online opens in new window](#)- Purdue Owl

Plagiarism and 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 opens in new window](#). Please read in particular, the section about "[Academic Misconduct opens in new window](#)".

Turnitin.com

Your written work will be submitted to [Turnitin opens in new window](#), or a similar electronic detection method, for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. As part of this process, you may be required to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your written work, or be given other instructions to follow. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process and that the assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Any assignment not submitted according to the procedures given by the instructor may be penalized or may not be accepted at all."

Library, Tutoring, and Other Resources

- The myMemphis Portal system, eCampus Student tab provides access to [University library opens in new window](#).
- The tutoring link in the course navigation bar provides access to free online tutoring through UpSwing.
- The LinkedIn Learning link in the course navigation bar provides free access to thousands of video tutorials.
- Other support services are available through the Educational Support Program.

Students With Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if determined eligible by disability services staff at the University of Memphis. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility for specific accommodations from the disability services staff. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with [Disability Resources for Students opens in new window](#)(DRS) and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Sexual Misconduct and Domestic Violence Policy

This policy specifically addresses sexual misconduct which includes dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The policy establishes procedures for responding to Title IX-related allegations of sexual misconduct. Complaints can be reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE). The OIE office is located in the Administration Building, Room 156. You may contact the OIE by phone at 901.678.2713 or by email at [oiem@memphis.edu opens in new window](mailto:oiem@memphis.edu). Complaints can be submitted online at [File a Complaint opens in new window](#).

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 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT opens in new window](#).

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 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 software at Adobe Acrobat Reader DC.
- Access Flash-based content with [Adobe Flash Player opens in new window](#) (free).
- Use Microsoft Office Software for Faculty, Staff, and Students for document creation.
- Play media content with [Real Player opens in new window](#) (free). [Quick Time opens in new window](#) (free), or [Windows Media Player opens in new window](#)(free). (available for students via <http://umapps.memphis.edu/>)

Syllabus Changes

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 opens in new window](#): To report an issue or request assistance, contact umTech - Information Technology Services.