



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH, ITALIAN AND SPANISH**

**SPAN 321, Contemporary Hispanic Cultures
Fall 2012**

Location : SH 157 Days : MWF 11:00 – 11:50

INSTRUCTOR 'S NAME and E-MAIL: Ana Val
OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS : CHC 312 MW 12:00-13:00 or by appointment
TELEPHONE NUMBER : 403-220-6738

DESCRIPTION

Spanish 321 will study some of the main current issues in the Hispanic world in their historical, cultural and social context. It will review the most relevant features of Hispanic countries, including their geographical characteristics, recent historical events, economic resources, social traits and artistic achievements.

The course involves extensive reading, comprehension, written activities and active participation. To take full advantage of the course it is essential that students arrive at class properly prepared, having done the tasks assigned for each class.

This course is not a conversation course. However students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Classes will be conducted in Spanish.

Objectives

The aim of this course is to raise learners' level of language proficiency and expand their knowledge of the Hispanic world by integrating language and content instruction.

Outcomes:

Cultural Awareness:

- You will gain basic knowledge of geographical, historical, social and cultural aspects of each of the regions that form the Hispanic world.
- You will analyze cultural syncretism, economical and social challenges such as migrations, ecological issues, the impact of drug production and trafficking, poverty, and human rights as they affect the Hispanic world.
- You will have the opportunity to make thoughtful comparisons between your own culture and experiences and aspects of the Hispanic cultures. As a result you should increase your sensitivity to cultural differences.
- You will continue to develop your critical thinking by being exposed to complex and controversial ideas related to cultural and social topics.

Linguistic competency:

Due to the objectives of this course you will make improvements in the lexical domain and in reading abilities.

- **Lexical domain:** you will expand your active and passive vocabulary in areas related to celebrations and festivities, geographical terms, social life, the city and its monuments, sociopolitical challenges and human rights.
- **Reading abilities:** you will be able to understand the main ideas in authentic texts posted on the web and dealing with different subjects. You should also be able to apply an increasing number of reading strategies. You will also see improvements in your listening and speaking abilities.
- **Listening:** You will be able to understand the main ideas in authentic videos posted on the web.
- **Speaking:** You will be able to narrate personal experiences, explain traditions and customs and express opinions in a simple manner. You will expose in a simple but clear way the results of your own research dealing with a cultural topic.
- **Writing:** you will be able to write simple and relatively short texts of several paragraphs such as are found in brochures, summaries, etc.

Prerequisites: Spanish 203 or consent of the Department.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

3 Exams (20% + 20% + 10%)	50%
2 compositions (10% + 10%)	20%
5 vocabulary tests	10%
Oral presentation	10%
Class performance	10%

There is NO final written examination.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-96 A = 95-91 A- = 90-86 B+ = 85-81 B = 80-76 B- = 75-71
C+ = 70-67 C = 66- 62 C- = 61-58 D+ = 57-54 D = 53-50 F = 49%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The material for this class will be available on Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

A good medium size Spanish-English/English-Spanish dictionary, such as Collins or Larousse and/or the online dictionary Wordreference: <http://www.wordreference.com/es/>

COURSE NOTES

- The calendar for this class posted on Blackboard is not binding and can change according to the needs of the class.
- Students will be encouraged to communicate consistently in the target language from the start of the course and to attend the Centro de Tertulia (CHD 303) to practice.
- To derive the utmost benefit from instruction, daily attendance is essential. Class participation is a necessary component of this course. Lack of attendance may adversely affect your overall performance and may have a negative impact on your final grade. Besides, failure to attend class always results in missed opportunities to hear and speak Spanish.
- Please turn off your cell phones, iPods, Blackberries and similar devices during lectures.
- Not all material posted on Blackboard under Course Documents will be covered in class. It is the student's responsibility to study any such sections if they are required by the instructor to do so.
- Depending on their abilities, students are expected to spend a minimum of two hours in outside preparation for each class period.

Late assignments and missed tests policy:

1. 5% of the grade will be deducted for each day a written assignment (activity or composition) is late if there is no written document to justify the absence or the failure to complete it. The Department's drop-box, located in the foyer area of the third floor in Craigie Hall between blocks D and C, is available for dropping off assignments and course work. The material placed in the drop-box will be collected and date- stamped at the beginning and at the end of the working day.
2. Attendance for all exams is compulsory. A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor may request a Physician/ Counselor statement form to confirm an absence for health reasons.
3. Do not make travel arrangements for the dates when exams are scheduled. Missed tests, assignments and examinations with no legitimate reason will be given a grade of F.

Electronic submission of assignments:

A hard copy of the assignments should be submitted at the beginning of the class.

Aula Virtual de Español (AVE)

The Department of French, Italian and Spanish has purchased a license to the Aula Virtual de Español (AVE), Spanish online learning materials developed by the Instituto Cervantes. This great resource is available to students for free during the semester on the Internet at: <http://ave2.cvc.cervantes.es/>

(User: fisuofc, Password: 772686).

DELE

Students are strongly encouraged to take the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) during the semester. More information at <http://diplomas.cervantes.es>

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.