

Advanced Spanish Conversation

Professor: Dra Amy Austin

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2PM

Sección del curso: SPAN 3303-001

Class Time and Place: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30AM-10:50AM; TH 218

TEXTS

Iorillo, Nino R., et al. *Conversación y controversia: tópicos de hoy y de siempre*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2011.

Spanish-English and English-Spanish Dictionary

SECONDARY MATERIALS

—Articles from the *Internet*, magazines and local, national and international newspapers related to the discussion themes.

—Movies in Spanish

GENERAL SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION

Practice in oral expression with an emphasis on vocabulary building and grammar review. Of special interest to students who wish to improve their skills in pronunciation, comprehension, and oral expression. Credit will not be granted to native or heritage speakers of Spanish.

Prerequisite: SPAN 2314 with a grade of C or better.

OBJECTIVES:

- to develop and improve students' ability to express their opinions and to communicate in Spanish
- to learn new vocabulary
- to improve grammar in Spanish
- to practice strategies for maintaining a conversation
- to improve fluency through the discussion of current events.

GRADING:

1. Participation	40%
2. Quizzes (grammar and vocabulary) (10+)	15%
3. Presentations (2)	20%
4. Oral Interviews (2)	25%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Attendance:

Attendance in class is mandatory since a student cannot participate if he/she does not attend. If the student misses more than TWO days, he or she will be penalized 2% from the final grade for each absence. It is expected that students arrive on time and ready to participate. Since late arrivals disrupt class, every third late arrival will be counted as an absence.

Participation (40%):

1. The students will form groups of 3-4 for each discussion theme. Each person must arrive to class with an article at least one page in length on the theme of the discussion for the day. Each student will write a list of new vocabulary words from his or her article with the English translation.
2. The groups will discuss the themes assigned in the textbook or themes selected by the professor.
3. In each group one person will have the responsibility of being the “director/a” and will guide the activities and the group discussion.
4. Another person will act as “secretario/a” and take notes on the group’s discussion.
5. The following class period, the “secretario/a” will present a well-organized summary of the group’s discussion with an introduction, a discussion of main points, and a conclusion.
6. The participation grade consists of:
 - grades given by the “secretarios” of each group (*peer evaluations*): 20%
 - grades given by the professor for daily participation: 20%

Presentations (20%):

Each student will have a minimum of two oral presentations. The presentations are done individually by the “secretarios,” who summarize their group’s discussion. They should be prepared without outside help (e.g. tutors, native speakers, etc) and without external resources (e.g. internet, Google translate, etc.) since that would constitute plagiarism. The presentations should be 3-4 minutes in length, well organized (introduction, main points, conclusion), memorized, and well practiced. The student may bring one 3-5 notecard with them, but points will be deducted for reading directly from the card. Eye contact counts!

Oral Interviews (25%):

There will be two oral interviews in which students will converse one-on-one with the professor. One will take place at midterms and the other at the end of the term.

Quizzes (15%):

There will be a minimum of 10 quizzes throughout the semester about grammar and vocabulary. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped

OJO: It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to turn work in on time. Pay attention to the dates on the syllabus before making any travel plans. There will be no exceptions or changes to due dates or exam dates for individual students. Work must be turned in at the beginning of the class on the date assigned on the syllabus. The professor will not accept late work and the student will receive a ZERO for work turned in after class. Due to the complications with email, the professor does not accept emailed work.

***Enrolling in this course means the student has understood and accepted all course policies outlined in this syllabus.**

Official University Policies

Grade Grievances: Students should first speak to their instructor. If a student is not satisfied after this conversation, he or she should see the Head of the Spanish section of the Department of Modern Languages (the instructor can provide this contact information). If, after speaking with the Head of the Spanish section, the student should speak to the Chair of Modern Languages. Ignoring this chain of command will result in the student being forced to follow it subsequently. The most time efficient way for a student to pursue a concern about your grade is to follow the instructions in this paragraph.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. **Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code: *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student

Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Blackboard: Assignments and readings will be posted daily on Blackboard. Students must check Blackboard daily to keep abreast of pertinent course information.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, [which is located through the door and down the stairs](#). When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

Librarians to Contact:

Jody Bailey 817-272-7516 jbailey@uta.edu

Ann Hodges 817-272-7510 ann.hodges@uta.edu

Official Classroom Policies:

E-Culture Policy: Email may be used for the following reasons in this course:

- For the professor to deliver class assignments and exercises
- For the professor to inform and remind students of assignments, deadlines, events, and activities
- For students to set up a face-to-face appointment with the professor if they wish to ask questions regarding course materials, clarification, or concerns about their progress in the course
- For students to inform the professor of absences Please do not use email for the following:
- To request class notes from the professor or that s/he email students course handouts
- To ask the professor what students missed in class When sending email messages, please consider the following:

Use salutations at the beginning and signatures at the end of the messages.

Try to use proper punctuation and capitalization (email and texting are different!).

Be courteous.

Spanish language in the classroom: As a student in an advanced level of language proficiency, you need many opportunities to use Spanish as a means of communication. You will begin by developing your ability to interact with your classmates and professor in the language. That is why your professor will speak only in Spanish in class. Try to understand her and follow instructions. If at any time you do not understand, please remember that it is your responsibility to ask for clarifications or explanations. If still in doubt, talk to the professor after class and/or make an appointment to see her in her office. You should also take the initiative in pair activities. Ask questions in Spanish. Do not be shy about conversing with your classmates; be a leader in group activities.

Class preparation: Attached is a syllabus for the entire term indicating the readings, assignments, exams, deadlines for papers, etc. You are responsible for preparing all lessons BEFORE class and for looking up and learning unfamiliar vocabulary. Do not hesitate to talk to the professor if you have doubts, questions or comments. Do not wait until the day of the exam or the last week of classes to discuss the material or your performance in the course.

Studying: To succeed in this course you must develop a habit of studying every night. First, this will enhance your ability to participate in class discussions, as well as your overall participation grade. Second, consistent engagement is the only way to improve your language skills. Third, if you are not consistent in your study practices, you will find yourself in the unfortunate position of having to cram for your tests, or hastily write your compositions and other homework, both of which often yield poor results.

Reading: You cannot understand the whole text after a single reading. Read the text a first time to get a general idea of its meaning. Then, read the text a second time. Use the dictionary for the words you do not understand. Learn these new words and significant expressions that will enable you to retell and discuss the text. Read the text several times until you are able to answer questions on it and summarize it in your own words without looking at it. If you are not sure whether you have indeed understood the material, make notes and bring your specific questions to class (in all likelihood, other students in class will have similar questions!). It is your responsibility to make sure that you master the material. Please discuss with the professor opportunities for extra help (from her and/or a tutor) if you feel you need it. Again, please do not wait until the day before the exam or too close to the end of the term to ask for help.

Leaving class during the class period: Please avoid this practice except in cases of extreme emergency. If this becomes a habit, it risks being calculated as a late arrival, and will affect the final participation grade.

Cell phones: Class time is precious, and I ask you to turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. If your cell phone rings or if I find you texting, I reserve the right to ask you to leave for the day. You will be counted absent for that day.

Email/Blackboard: It is UTA policy that all official correspondence must be done through UTA emails. Please make certain that you check your UTA email and Blackboard daily, as I will send all information regarding the course to your account on file at the University.

Class participation: Active oral participation is a vital part of this course. **Quantity** (i.e., frequency of involvement in class discussions, pair practice, group work, class presentations) and **quality** (i.e., accuracy and pronunciation) will be considered for your evaluation. Participation will be graded according to the following scale and it will be assessed daily:

- 4 (A) Clear evidence of preparation and frequent voluntary participation.
- 3 (B) Evidence of preparation and some significant participation.
- 2 (C) Student participates mostly when asked.
- 1 (D) Student is present but does not participate.
- 0 (F) Student is often absent and when present, only in body.

Appropriate class participation: Unless directed otherwise, please address all questions, comments and concerns to the professor. By asking the person sitting next to you (who may not know the answer), both of you may be missing important information being delivered at that moment. Unless doing group work, only one person should be speaking in class at any given time and everyone else offering full and polite attention. If something is unclear, please raise your hand and wait for the professor.

Meeting with the professor: Finally, please do not hesitate to see me if you have doubts, questions, or comments. Do not wait until the day of the exam or the last week of classes to talk to me about your performance, to discuss material or to seek help. If you have a conflict during my office hours, please contact me to arrange another time to meet with me.

Classroom Comportment Policy: Students should come to class prepared with their textbooks or assigned reading and maintain a respectful disposition toward the learning process. Sleeping during class, texting, and otherwise disrupting class (e.g. getting up and leaving while class is in session) is not acceptable behavior in a University environment.

Nota bene: This syllabus may be modified throughout the term, depending on the needs of the students.

PROGRAMA DEL CURSO

SEMANA 1	
Enero	
martes 19	Introducción al curso
jueves 21	Tema 1: El científico y el artista, pp. 1-4 Vocabulario, p. 5 Artículos y discusión en grupos
SEMANA 2	
martes 26	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Presente perfecto de indicativo p. 33; Participio pasado como adjetivo, p. 33-34 Por escrito: Acts. A, B, C, pp. 33-34

jueves 28	Tema 2: El matrimonio, pp. 19-22 Vocabulario, p. 23 Artículos y discusión en grupos
SEMANA 3	
febrero	
martes 2	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Pretérito e imperfecto, pdf en Blackboard bajo “Course Materials”
jueves 4	Tema 3: Los hombres y las mujeres, pp. 27-32 Vocabulario, p. 32 Artículos y discusión en grupos
SEMANA 4	
martes 9	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Ser y estar, pp. 6-7 Por escrito: Acts. A y B, pp. 7-8
jueves 11	Película: <i>Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios</i> (España)
SEMANA 5	
martes 16	CLASE VIRTUAL: Ver la segunda mitad de la película, en reserva en el LAC, TH 302
jueves 18	Discusión en grupos
SEMANA 6	
martes 23	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Subjuntivo en cláusulas adjetivas, p. 46 Por escrito: Acts. C y D, p. 47
jueves 25	Gramática: Subjuntivo con conjunciones de tiempo y otras conjunciones adverbiales, pp. 24, 72, 140 Por escrito: Act. A, p. 24; Act. A, p. 72; Act. A, p. 140
SEMANA 7	
marzo	
martes 1	Tema 4: El terrorismo, pp. 36-39 Vocabulario, p. 40 Artículos y discusión en grupos
jueves 3	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Verbos como <i>gustar</i> , p. 55 Por escrito: Act. A, p. 55
SEMANA 8	
martes 8	ENTREVISTAS DE MEDIO SEMESTRE
jueves 10	ENTREVISTAS DE MEDIO SEMESTRE

14-18 de marzo	VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA: NO HAY CLASE
SEMANA 9	
martes 22	Tema 5: El narcotráfico, pp. 135-138 Vocabulario, p. 139 Artículos y discusión en grupos
jueves 24	Presentaciones de los secretarios
SEMANA 10	
martes 29	Película: <i>María llena eres de gracia</i> (Colombia/EEUU)
jueves 31	Película (cont.)
abril	
SEMANA 11	
martes 5	Película (cont.) y discusión en grupos
jueves 7	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Subjuntivo con verbos de emoción, p. 63 (y en otras cláusulas sustantivas) Por escrito: Acts. A, B y C, p. 63
SEMANA 12	
martes 12	Gramática: Subjuntivo en cláusulas adverbiales, mandatos coletivos, p. 25 Acts. C y D, p. 25
jueves 14	Tema 6: La migración, pp. 75-78 Vocabulario, p. 79 Artículos y discusión en grupos
SEMANA 13	
martes 19	Presentación de los secretarios Gramática: El futuro, p. 15 El condicional, p. 72 Por escrito: Act. A, p. 151; Act. B, p. 72-73
jueves 21	Tema 7: La eutanasia, pp. 67-70 Vocabulario, p. 71 Película: <i>Mar adentro</i> (España)
SEMANA 14	
martes 26	Película (cont.)
jueves 28	Discusión en grupos
SEMANA 15	
mayo	
martes 3	Presentaciones de los secretarios y Conclusiones
jueves 5	Evaluaciones y Repaso para las entrevistas finales
	ENTREVISTA FINAL: 5, 9 o 10 de mayo