

Advanced Spanish Conversation

Professor: Dra. Amy Austin

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Office Hours: M 1-3, W 2-2:50 and by appt.

Course Section: SPAN 3303-001

Class Time and Place: MWF 9-9:50AM; UH 13

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 Class Policies:**E-Culture Policy:**

Email may be used for the following reasons in this course:

- For the professor to inform and remind students of assignments, deadlines, events, and activities
- For the professor to deliver class assignments and exercises
- 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.

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.

More information:

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the attendance policy described above (see "Attendance and participation"), to wit: I take attendance on a daily basis, and students are assigned a daily participation grade, which is factored in the "Attendance and participation" portion of the final grade. Any absence above three (3) will negatively impact this portion of the grade.

E-Culture Policy:

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- 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.

Nota bene: *As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Dr. Austin*

PROGRAMA DEL CURSO

SEMANA 0	
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26 agosto	Introducción al curso
SEMANA 1	
29 agosto	Tema 1: El científico y el artista, pp. 1-4 Vocabulario, p. 5
31 agosto	Artículos y discusión en grupos
2 sept.	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Ser y estar, pp. 5-8
SEMANA 2	
5 sept	LABOR DAY: No hay clase
7 sept.	Tema 2: El matrimonio, pp. 22-24 Vocabulario, p. 25
9 sept.	Artículos y discusión en grupo
SEMANA 3	
12 sept.	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Pretérito e imperfecto, pp. 205-208
14 sept.	Tema 3: Los hombres y las mujeres, pp. 31-35 Vocabulario, p. 36
16 sept.	Artículos y discusión en grupos
SEMANA 4	
19 sept.	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Presente perfecto de indicativo p. 37; Participio pasado como adjetivo, p. 38
21 sept.	Película: <i>Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios</i> (España)
23 sept.	Película (cont.)
SEMANA 5	
26 sept.	Película (cont.)
28 sept.	Película (cont.)
30 sept.	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Subjuntivo en cláusulas adjetivas, p. 53
SEMANA 6	
3 oct.	Gramática: Subjuntivo con conjunciones de tiempo y otras conjunciones adverbiales, pp. 26, 85, 168
5 oct.	Tema 4: El terrorismo, pp. 43-46 Vocabulario, p. 46
7 oct.	Artículos y discusión en grupos
SEMANA 7	
10 oct.	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Verbos como <i>gustar</i> , p. 63
5 oct.	Repaso para las entrevistas
7 oct.	ENTREVISTAS DE MEDIO SEMESTRE
SEMANA 8	
17 oct.	ENTREVISTAS DE MEDIO SEMESTRE

19 oct.	ENTREVISTAS DE MEDIO SEMESTRE
21 oct.	Tema 5: El narcotráfico, pp. 163-166 Vocabulario, p. 167
SEMANA 9	
24 oct.	Artículos y discusión en grupos
26 oct.	Presentaciones de los secretarios
28 oct.	Película: <i>María llena eres de gracia</i> (Colombia/EEUU)
SEMANA 10	
21 oct.	Película (cont.)
2 nov.	Película (cont.)
4 nov.	Película (cont.)
SEMANA 11	
7 nov.	Presentaciones de los secretarios Gramática: Subjuntivo con verbos de emoción, p. 74 (y en otras cláusulas sustantivas)
9 nov.	Gramática: Subjuntivo en cláusulas adverbiales, p. 178-180
11 nov.	Tema 6: La migración, pp. 90-92 Vocabulario, p. 93
SEMANA 12	
14 nov.	Película: <i>Sin nombre</i> (EEUU)
16 nov.	Presentación de los secretarios Gramática: El futuro, p. 16
18 nov.	Gramática: El condicional, pp. 85-86
SEMANA 13	
21 nov.	Discusión de la película y la migración
23 nov.	Presentación de los secretarios Gramática: El futuro, p. 16
25 nov.	Gramática: El condicional, pp. 85-86
SEMANA 14	
lunes 25	Discusión: Tema libre
miércoles 27	Discusión: Tema libre
viernes 29	Thanksgiving: No hay clase
diciembre	
lunes 2	Presentaciones de los secretarios
miércoles 4	Repaso para las entrevistas finales

Entrevistas finales:
el miércoles, 14 de diciembre 8-10:30am y por cita

Official University Policies:

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). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. 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. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *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.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the

University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, 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 can be accessed by turning right out the door, taking an immediate left or right and then exiting through the doors. 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.

Students are also encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at <https://mavalert.uta.edu/> or <https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

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>.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

Useful Links

Library Home Page	http://www.uta.edu/library
Subject Guides	http://libguides.uta.edu
Subject Librarians	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php
Database List	http://www.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php
Course Reserves	http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do

Library Catalog	http://discover.uta.edu/
E-Journals.....	http://liblink.uta.edu/UTAlink/az
Library Tutorials	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php
Connecting from Off- Campus	http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
Ask A Librarian	http://ask.uta.edu